masamune shirow's

ORION™

STORY AND ART
masamune shirow

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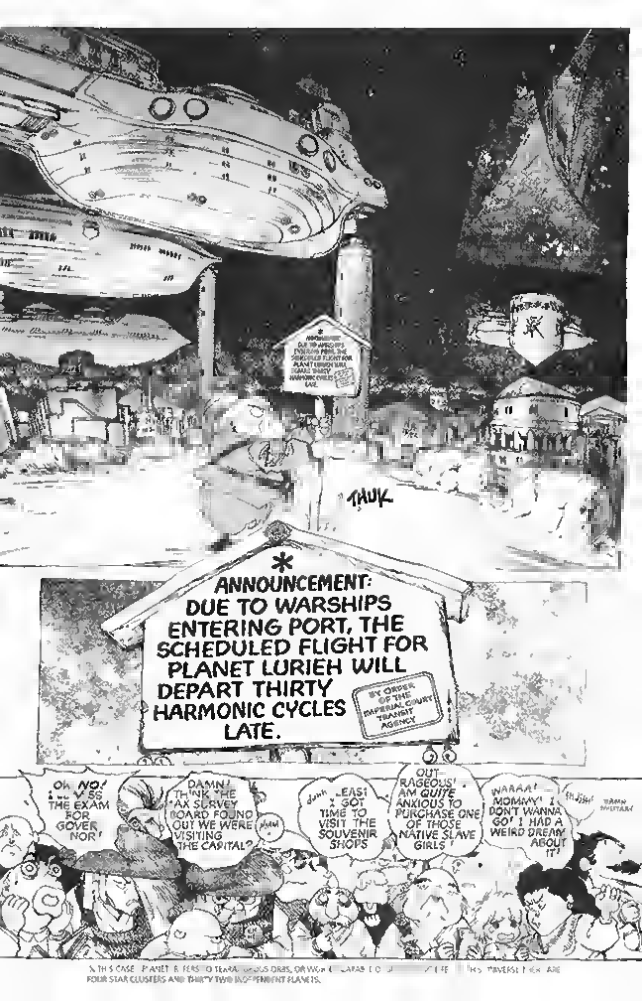

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ANNOUNCEMENT: DUE TO WARSHIPS ENTERING PORT, THE SCHEDULED FLIGHT FOR PLANET LURIEH WILL DEPART THIRTY HARMONIC CYCLES LATE.
TAUK
*
ANNOUNCEMENT:
DUE TO WARSHIPS ENTERING PORT, THE SCHEDULED FLIGHT FOR PLANET LURIEH WILL DEPART THIRTY HARMONIC CYCLES LATE.
BY ORDER OF THE IMPERIAL COURT TRANSIT AGENCY
OH NO! I'LL MISS THE EXAM FOR GOVERNOR!
DAMN! THINK THE TAX SURVEY BOARD FOUND OUT WE WERE VISITING THE CAPITAL?
HMM
darn
LEAST I GOT TIME TO VISIT THE SOUVENIR SHOPS
OUTRAGEOUS! I AM QUITE ANXIOUS TO PURCHASE ONE OF THOSE NATIVE SLAVE GIRLS!
WAAAA! MOMMY! I DON'T WANNA GO! I HAD A WEIRD DREAM ABOUT IT!
SHUSH!
DAMN SHOTAN

IN THIS CASE "PLANET" REFERS TO TERRAQUEOUS ORBS, OR WORLDS CAPABLE OF [illegible] LIFE. IN THIS TRAVERSE THERE ARE FOUR STAR CLUSTERS AND THIRTY TWO INDEPENDENT PLANETS.

FIRST NAVIGATOR SESKA! THE MILITARY SHIP NUBATAMA HAS PASSED THROUGH THE FIRST OF TO-DIMENSION
227
BOM-F!
GYAK!
GEE! THOSE WAKE UP TALISMANS REALLY WORK! I BETTER BUY A BUNCH NEXT TIME THEY'RE ON SALE!
STRANGE STUFF
WHAT WAS THAT? THE NUBATAMA'S ARRIVING?
YES'M

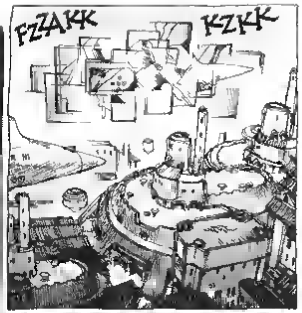
SURE ENOUGH
FZZKKK
KZZAKKK

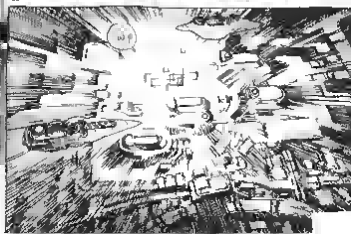
MI-KURAAMA REFERS TO "INNER SPACE" WHERE THE INFLUENCE OF STARS AND PLANETS EXCEEDS A SPECIFIC LEVEL
NOW CHANGING NAVIGATORS AND CAPTAINS
AFTER A BREAK OF TEN H CYCLES THE SHIP WILL ENTER MI-KURAAMA
HEY SESKA! LONG TIME NO SEE!
WELL, WELL! SUCH A FAMILIAR GREETING FROM A MERE CLASS B TRANSIT NAVIGATOR!
SO-KURAAMA REFERS TO "DEEP SPACE" WHERE THERE IS VIRTUALLY ZERO INFLUENCE FROM STARS AND PLANETS
sniff YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING FUN OF ME 'CAUSE I'M ONLY QUALIFIED TO FLY IN SO KURAAMA Hmph!
AND YOU'RE ALWAYS SO LATE
heh heh
YOU TRYING TO START A FIGHT SESKA DEAR?
WHO? ME?!
START A FIGHT? WITH A CLASS B TRANSNAV? HOW QUAINTLY AMUSING!
ANYWAY I'M LATE 'CAUSE THE SHIP'S HARMONIC COUNT DOESN'T MATCH THE DECLARED COUNT MAYBE THERE'RE SOME STOWAWAYS ON BOARD
MUST BE A BUNCH OF ECONOMIC REFUGEES SWARMING INTO GOKO-KUTEN
GOING TO LURIEH ISN'T GOING TO HELP THEM MUCH THOUGH~
SESKA! YOU KNOW IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING SOME HOPES AND DREAMS AND HAVING NONE!

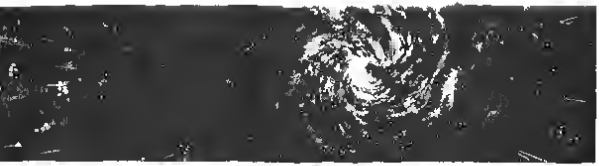
KANGG
VREEEEE
KLAK
TRANSNAV TO CAPTAIN YOU'VE GOT TO DECLARE YOUR PROPER HARMONIC COUNT SIR!
OTHERWISE THE INCANTATION I'VE READIED WILL BE INACCURATE AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE OFF ON TIME!
UNLESS WE CORRECT FOR THE DELAY THERE'LL BE A SHIFT IN OUR INITIAL NAV POSITION I THINK THE BEST CHOICE IS TO CUT THE LAYOVER SHORT AND TAKE OFF RIGHT AWAY.
WAIT A MINUTE! I'M THE CAPTAIN! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!
SMAK
OKAY EVERYONE! PUT YOUR MINDS TO IT! FULL SPEED AHEAD!
PREPARE INCANTATION!
THE THD
BEGIN!!
FZZK

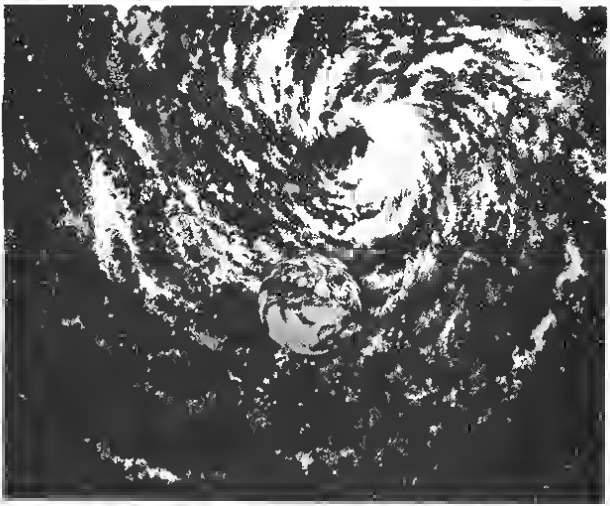
masamune shirow's

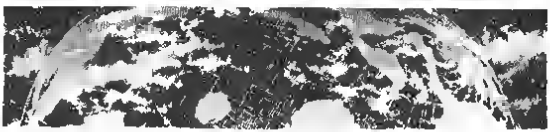
ORION











KLAKK
CENTRAL SOKOKU PALACE

WELCOME TO LUTEH!
DISEMBARKING PASSENGERS EXIT RIGHT!
WATCH YOUR STEP!
I NEED YOUR SEAL ON THIS OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FROM THE SKIPPER
SURE. NO PROBLEM THE BOTTOM COPY'S MINE RIGHT?
RATS! I ONLY PILOTED THIS SHIP IN 'CAUSE MY LAST FORTUNE COOKIE SAID IT'D RHYME ME LUCK NOW I'VE GOT ANOTHER COMPLAINT ON MY RECORD
WUMPF
HEY! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM FAL?!
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!!
Hmph

WELL IF IT ISN'T SESKA! HAVEN'T LAID EYES ON YOU FOR AWHILE!
UH R RONNEL? I MEAN COMMANDER RONNEL? WH WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON LURIEH?!
AN ULTRA PSYCHE-LEVEL MALEFIC FORCE IS REPORTEDLY GOING TO MANIFEST HERE TONIGHT SO I WAS SENT OUT FROM HQ I CAME IN ON THE NUBATAMA
PINCH ME I MUST BE DREAMING!
OWW!
I FIGURED IT WAS YOU NAVIGATING THE NUBATAMA
COMMANDER RONNEL!
THIS PASSAGE WAY'S ONLY FOR LOWLY PORT WORKERS SIR!
WELCOME TO LURIEH I'M GONZALES CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD SIR!
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY COMMANDER THE SHOGUN IS WAITING!
BUT I UH...
Ohhh RONNEL
WAAAH!
WAK
WAK
WAK
I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF AGAIN!!!

HEY BARKEEP DRINKS ON THE HOUSE!
VERY GENEROUS OF YOU SIR— COMING RIGHT UP!
KERPIE
TWO DOUBLED HOPPERS FOR TABLE FOUR!
I GIVE MY AAALL FOR YOU, BABY
OOOOH YEAH
THE WORLD MAY END, BUT THERE'LL STILL BE YOU AND ME BABY
YOU'RE IN GREAT FORM TONIGHT SESKA
FELT GOOD TO BELT THAT OUT
I COULD SEE A LOT OF SNAKES
SNAKES?!
YEAH ORDINARY FOLKS CAN'T SEE 'EM THOUGHTS DON'T JUST FORM AND FADE INSIDE THE BRAIN Y'KNOW
THEY'RE SPUN FROM ENERGY POINTS ABOVE THE HEAD AND VESTIGES OF 'EM REMAIN
THERE YOU GO AGAIN WITH THAT JUNK JEEZ

THE MOST E[illegible]RTICLES IN THE [illegible]ASE REPRESENT NOT PHYSICAL MATTER, BUT POWER, MEANING AND THE NATURE OF THINGS COMING INTO MANIFESTATION. THEY ARE COMPLEX[illegible]RUCTURES. HUMANS ARE JUST SPIRAL STRANDS OF DNA (EVERYTHING EXISTS JUST BECAUSE ONE A VERY UNCERTAIN AND [illegible]YNAMIC FORM OF EXISTENCE WHICH MUST CONTINUALLY EAT AND BREATHE. THE DNA CAN STRANDS OF DNA ARE THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCK[illegible] OF ALL LIFE. SEEN IN A VARIETY OF MODELS. IF ONLY OUR SCIENTISTS WOULD [illegible]RICATE AND DEVELOP A THEORETICAL BASIS FOR CONSCIOUSNESS.

WOW!
GLUP GLUP GLUP
GEE SESKA THE GOD OF AQUA LOCO MUST BE WATCHING OVER YOU THE WAY YOU KNOCK THAT STUFF BACK
YEAH, YOU BETTER NOT TRY THIS-- IT'LL KILL YOU.
HEH HEH HEH HEHEE
WHAT THE ?!
WATCH OUT SESKA! THAT'S A BAD LUCK MICRO-DAEMON!
AWHAP
OPEN UP! WE'RE LOOKING FOR SESKA- DAUGHTER OF MASTER FUZEN, HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN AND SORCERER OF THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS!
HUH?!
FUZ ZAY
THIS IS THE IMPERIAL POLICE FORCE!
COME OUT WITH YOU PSYCHE LEVEL OWN!
WHAT ?!
NOW !!
ARMORED NAGA TROOPS FROM THE PALACE ?
? ?!?

SESKA! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE THIS TIME?!
GACK! MAYBE IT'S THAT OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FORM I THREW AWAY? OR THE CITY GATE I SMASHED? OR THE LIGHTNING STRIKE I CALLED DOWN ON THE TAX OFFICE?
WE HAVE ORDERS TO ARREST ANYONE FROM THE FUZE CLAN!
SEIZE HER, MEN!
CHAARRGE!!!
ARREST THE WHOLE CLAN?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
I NEED TO BORROW YOUR AMP* FOR A SEC!
NO! WAIT!! I HAVEN'T BROKEN IT IN YET!!
SHE'S GOING TO FLY! SET FIELD OF CAPTURE AND HARMONIC LEVEL!
FWAHSSHH
HE AMP UNIT CONTAINS AN EMOTIONLESS BIOGRAPHY WHICH MODIFIES THE WILL OF THE USER. FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED COMPLEX INCANTATIONS CAN BE STORED ON CARTRIDGE TYPE TALISMANS.

WHOK
WHOK
WHOK
WHOK
EEK!
SHH
SHH
KLANG
THIS DHARMA CIRCLE LEADS TO A SUB TERRANEAN NAGA CHANNEL! ANY READING ON THE DETECTOR?
NOT A THING SIR! SHE MUST HAVE PHASE SHIFTED AS SOON AS SHE JUMPED IN!
WELL THAT WAS EASY! NABBED ER!
HEH HEH
IDIOT! THAT WAS JUST A DECOY! LOOK!

THAT CURSED BRAT'S MOOD-WINKED US!
WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN GUESS WHERE SHE'S HEADED-- KURAMA TENDAI, THE MAIN TEMPLE FOR THE TENDAI MAGA RITUALS!
THAT'S WHERE THE SECOND COMMANDO FORCE WAS SENT--THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF HER!
BUT THERE'S AN ULTRA HIGH PRESSURE PSYCHE SYSTEM HOVERING OVER KURAMA RIGHT NOW!
YOU THINK WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE FOR LETTING HER SLIP?
LET WHO SLIP? THERE WASN'T ANY ONE IN THE TAVERN!
OH YEAH RIGHT DID I SAY THERE WAS?
Hmm WONDER WHAT THAT HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM'S DOING OVER KURAMA?
THERE'S AN ARMORED GOONSQUAD ON THE PATH TO THE TEMPLE!
THE HIGH PRESSURE MUST BE SLOWING THEM DOWN TOO
IT MUST BE INTERFERING WITH THEIR AMPS SO THEY CAN'T FLY...

WHOO

KSHANGG
KRASHANGG

SMAK
SHHHGG
FWAPP
WHOO
FWOSHH
BOMP!
IN THE NAME OF KURAMA, I SUMMON MY GUARDIANS! O MEN OF STONE! O MEN OF STEEL! WHERE ARE YOU IN MY TIME OF NEED?!

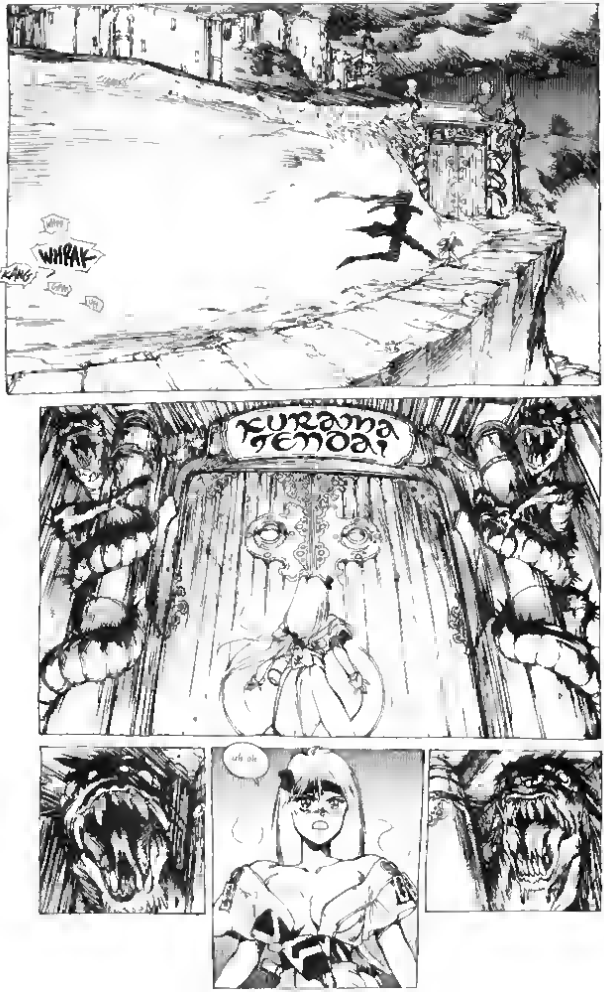
Koff Koff
HACK
KSHANGG
DON'T LET ANY OF 'EM NEAR THE SANCTUARY GATES! UNDERSTAND?!

GHEH
KSHANGG
KNCH
SHRAK
SKNCH
KRAK
I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE VERY MUCH
YEAH WHY'D SHE HAVE TO SUMMON US HERE?!
I WANNA GO HOME
TOO LATE WE'LL HAFTA FIGHT OUR WAY OUT
I'VE GOT A LOCK ON TWO PSYCHO MASSES STRAIGHT AHEAD!
READING 60 PSYCHES HARMONIC LEVEL 41 VARIABILITY 7%
KRANG
ARMORED ARTILLERY FORWARD!

WHD
WHSSH
KCHAK
O FELLOW PRIESTS WHO HAVE FALLEN FROM THE RIGHTEOUS PATH! MAY YOUR EVIL WAYS BRING YOU ETERNAL SUFFERING!
QUICKLY, NOW! BE GONE FROM HERE!
LOCKED AT 120 PSYCHES, HARMONIC LEVEL 4! READY AIM
FIRE!
RAKK

BTAM
!
MMPH!
ZKZ
ZKZ
ZK ZK
HRMM..
FORWARD!
KSHANGG
BASTARDS! I'LL SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO!!

WHUMP
UFFF!
NOW LISTEN HERE
UGGA UGGA
FNGG HNGRK
SKRIK
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ?!
YOU RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON MY SIDE! HAVE YOU BEEN POSSESSED?


WHAK
KURAMA TENDAI
uh oh

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! OPEN THE GATES!
HAVE YOU IDIOTS FORGOTTEN THE HARMONICS OF SESKA BELOVED DAUGHTER OF MASTER FUZEN HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN?!
IS THIS GATE GOING TO LET SOMEONE FROM KURAMA PASS OR NOT?!
GRWN
GRWN
MAYBE THE GUARDIAN DRAGONS ARE GOING SENILE
GRR
OR COULD SOMEONE HAVE REPROGRAMMED THE DHARMA SEAL?
EEYEW!
AN EMISSARY OF DEATH!
FSSH
FSSH

HOPE THOSE FAT GUARDIANS I SUMMONED DO THEIR JOB I'LL HAVE IT OUT WITH 'EM LATER
WELL WELL WELL IF IT ISN'T SESSIE BABY! NICE LITTLE BIT OF NOTHIN YER ALMOST WEARING!
IT'S A REAL TURN ON! DON'T WEAR THAT FOR ANYBODY CEPT ME OKAY?!
phm
WHUMPF
Sniff
WHERE'S MY OLD MAN?
MASTER FUZEN? WHY HE'S STILL WORKING ON SOMETHING IN THE SUMMONARY, LADY SESKA
THE SUMMONARY?

OMMMMM
OMMMMMM
OMMMMMMMM
DON'T STOP!
OMMMMMMMMM
SESKA! FOLLOW ME!!

DADDY! THERE'S A NEW MODEL GOON SQUAD FROM THE PALACE ON THE TEMPLE STAIRS! THEY'RE COMING HERE!
I KNOW!
YOU KNOW?! THEN WHAT'D I RUN ALL THE WAY HERE FOR?!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
SILENCE! JUST STEP INTO THE MIDDLE OF THAT CIRCLE! QUICKLY!
WHA WHAT'S THIS?!
W WAIT!! THIS IS A DHARMAQUATION WITH A MULTILAYER SEAL CONTAINING A TOP SECRET OF THE IMPERIAL FORCES!

Heh heh NOW I GET IT! YOU STOLE IT DIDN'T YOU DADDY?!
THAT'S WHY THE GOON SQUAD'S HERE!
SEE?! I'M NOT SO STUPID AFTER ALL!
SILENCE! GET IN THE CIRCLE!
WHO WHO?
URMF!
BUT I MIGHT DISTURB THE DHARMA-QUATION
EEEEEEEEEEEEEK
DADDY! YOU PERVERT! MAKING MY CLOTHES FALL OFF! YOU'LL NEVER REACH BUDDHAHOOD LIKE THAT!
DON'T MOVE!!
HM?
STAK
SPAK
SPAK
ZAK

HELP! THE SACRED GOLEM SCRIBINGS ARE COMING TO LIFE!
SILENCE, OR THEY'LL ENTER YOUR MOUTH! CONTROL YOU! BREATHING!
THEY THEY'RE COLD I FEEL THEM ALL OVER MY BODY!!
DAMN
GEE I JUST TURNED INTO A TOP SECRET!
Hmmm

WHA-BOOM
IT'S NO USE
MUST BE PROTECTED BY AN AWFULLY POWERFUL DHARMA SEAL!
WE'RE THE IMPERIAL FORCES; MEN! NO WIMPING OUT!
KSSHHH
KLIK
FREEEEE
Kchak
YREEEE
AT THIS RATE WE MIGHT HAVE TO CALL ON DR HEBIME!
FUNNY LOOKS LIKE ANY OLD WOOD AND STONE GATE

WHOOOOM
WHA?
YOWWWW!
WHAT THE HELL?!
VRISSHH
VRNNNN
IT'S DR HEBIME !!
Hmph THIS IS INTOLERABLE
VWIP

WOW! YOU SEE THAT? I KNOW HE CAN CAST A FAST SPELL, BUT THAT WAS 50 HARMONICS IN ABOUT 7 SECONDS!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
SMAK
WHOSH
AHH!
OOH!
AAAH!
WRAK!

WHISSHH
KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK SKRNCH KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK
Uh...oh! THE DRAGON CARVINGS ON THE PILLARS HAVE BROKEN FREE!
DON'T LOOK AT THEM WITH THE NAKED EYE! YOU'LL GO INSANE!
BEATS WATCHING ON MY COCKPIT SCREEN!
?
KCHIK
CHOK
KRAK
GRAAH!!

FWSSHHHH
FWAP
!
WOWWW!
GRAIN
KREEE
GRAIN
KREEE
GRAIN
KREEE

THAT DAMN HEBIME'S HERE!
LOOK AT MY ONCE CUTE BODY!
NOW COMMANDER RONNEL WILL NEVER MARRY ME!!
REMEMBER DON'T LET ANYONE SEE THE DHARMA QUATION!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM? AN EXHIBITIONIST?
WAIT! WAIT A MINUTE DADDY!
I NEED SOME CLOTHES!!
OHHHHHH
OHHHHHH
HOW'S IT GOING?!
IT'S STILL DEVELOPING MASTER!

WHAT ARE ALL THESE PRIESTS TRYING TO SUMMON, DADDY?
STOP!! DON'T STEP IN THAT DHARMA CIRCLE!!
WE'RE SUMMONING A VAJRA ARHAT!
WHAT?! BUT IT'S FORBIDDEN TO SUMMON ONE USING TENDAI NAGA RITUALS!
HAVE YOU HAD A SECT CHANGE OR SOMETHING?!
WH-KASH!
HUH?

TAKE HEED!
A WARRANT FROM THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL
FOR MASTER FUZEN, HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN GUARDIAN OF THE TENDAI NAGA DRAGON RITUALS AT KURAMA TENDAI!
EDICT
FWAPP
ARREST THIS MAN ON CHARGES OF STEALING MILITARY SECRETS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT!!
IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY KENKOKU, GLORIOUS THIRD EMPEROR OF THE YAMATA PEOPLE'S EMPIRE THE TENDAI TEMPLE IS ORDERED CLOSED AND ITS MEMBERS ARE HEREWITH PLACED IN THE CUSTODY OF GYOUN HEBIME, MILITARY COUNSELOR TO THE IMPERIAL COURT!!
WHAT?!!

HOW CAN THE EMPEROR MAKE A DECISION LIKE THAT WITHOUT ANY PROOF?!
HAH! I BET YOU FORGED THAT THING!!
YOU WISH! NO THIS CRYSTAL SKULL HERE TOLD ME EVERY THING!
SO GET OUT OF THE WAY FOOLISH WENCH! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF PSYCHO SCIENCE!
WAIT! IT'S TRUE I STOLE THE SECRETS BUT THERE'S A GOOD REASON!
THE REST OF THE CLAN AND TENDAI HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS! THERE'S NO NEED TO INVOLVE THE EMPEROR!
TOO LATE! THE EDICT HAS BEEN ISSUED!
AND I SENSE THAT SOMEONE IN YOUR CLAN HAS HIDDEN THE DHARMAQUATION SOMEWHERE IN TENDAI!
WHAT?! YOU MEAN THE DHARMA-QUATION'S ACTIVE?
IF IT IS WE'RE ALL IN BIG TROUBLE!
Hmph! WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW OF THE VAJRA NAGA-DRAGON RITUALS OR PSYCHO-SCIENCE MACHINES?!
BUT IF THAT'S TRUE SOME THING TERRIBLE COULD HAPPEN!
THE TENDAI NAGA-DRAGON RITUAL HAS ALREADY BEEN ENCODED INTO THE DHARMA QUATION! IT'LL SUMMON THE WORST DEMON IMAGINABLE!

FIFTY-TWO YEARS AGO WHEN WE NAVIGATED THROUGH THE HEAVENS USING THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS AND APPEARED ON THIS PLANET WHAT YOU SAY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRUE
BUT NO LONGER!
WHY IS KURAMA TENDAI ALLOWING THE PEOPLE OF THE LONGAI AND YAGANA LANDS WHO ARE NOT ALLIED WITH OUR GLORIOUS EMPEROR TO FREELY COME AND GO IN ITS AREA?
YAMATA
SONGAI
TAIKAN
LONGAI
KURAMA TENDAI
YAMATA PEOPLES EMPIRE
LAKE SOLE
I HAVE ADVISED THE EMPEROR THAT THESE INDEPENDENT ACTIONS HAVE GONE TOO FAR. THAT HE MUST ACT!
WHAT CAME OVER YOU FUZEN? I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU
HA! AND I IN YOU HERE IN WITH YOUR LOVE OF PSYCHO SCIENCE!!
WE ORIGINALLY CAME TO THIS PLANET TO COLLECT ALL THE NEGATIVE KARMA IN THE GREATER GALACTIC EMPIRE INTO ONE SPOT— AND DESTROY IT.
NOW THAT YOU'VE STOLEN THE DHARMAQUATION TO ACTIVATE THE COLLECTOR THE GREAT DRAGON WITH NINE TAILS AND NINE HEADS THAT WE CALL THE YAMATA-NO OROCHI— JUST WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
SWIPE

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN CONTROL THE POWER OF THE NAGA WITH YOUR LUDICROUS PSYCHO SCIENCE MACHINES?
SOMETIMES PSYCHO SCIENCE IS A LITTLE HELPFUL DADDY
WHY YOU PATHETIC, BRAIN-DAMAGED FOOL!
KRAMM
KUHOM
ARREST THEM ALL!!
YESSIR!
SMASH ANYONE NEAR THE DHARMA QUATION! DEAL WITH THE GIRL AS YOU SEE FIT BUT DON'T SHED ANY BLOOD! WE'LL TAKE THE DHARMAQUATION WITH US!

WHRAK
SKNCH
FRAKK
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
RUN!! SESKA! RUN!
D-D-DON'T MIND IF I DO!

SKRASSH
EEK!
CHOK
WHMPH
UR MPH!
NO! DON'T STEP IN THE CIRCLE!!
THAT'S A NINE-HEADED NAGA DRAGON DHARMA-QUATION!

WHSSST
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
CHOK
SESKA!!
!
WHKAMM
SKSSHHHH

HGGRFF
DAAH!!
PLEASE LET THIS ALL JUST BE
A BAD DREAM !
KTAK
WELL WELL! THIS REVERSES THE ROLES WE HAD IN OUR FORMER LIVES
HAH! I I KNEW LONG AGO THIS WOULD HAPPEN AND I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT TOO
MASTER HEBIME! URGENT MESSAGE FROM KUMAMO TENDAI !!
WHAT IS IT ?!
YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND!
THAT S NOT
FOSSIBLE
VRRNNNIVNN
A PSYCHO MASS TRAVELING AT SUPER LUMINAL SPEED IS HEADED HERE TO KUMAMA TENDAI
IT'S GOT AN ESTIMATED PSYCHE LEVEL OF 2,950 000 000 !

IT'S HIM
WHA... WHA...
BY THE GODS !!

AIEEE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
BKOOM
BOOM!
BOMF
DON'T PANIC, MEN! LOOSEN YOUR PSYCH-ADJUSTER BOLTS AND THE FORCE WON'T HIT YOU! BUT DON'T TOUCH THE MAYA-BREAKERS!
S. SESKA"! GO TO THE TEMPLE LIBRARY AND OPEN THE BOX WITH THE RED SEAL!
WHAT?!
SCROLL NUMBER EIGHT HAS A DESCRIPTION OF THE DHARMA SEAL AND HOW TO OPERATE THE NAGA SYSTEM... THE VAJRA ARHAT TRAVELS THROUGH SPACE WITH A PSYCHIC LEVEL OF 980,000,000, AND HE'S INVINCIBLE—BUT WITH SCROLL EIGHT YOU CAN CONTROL HIM!

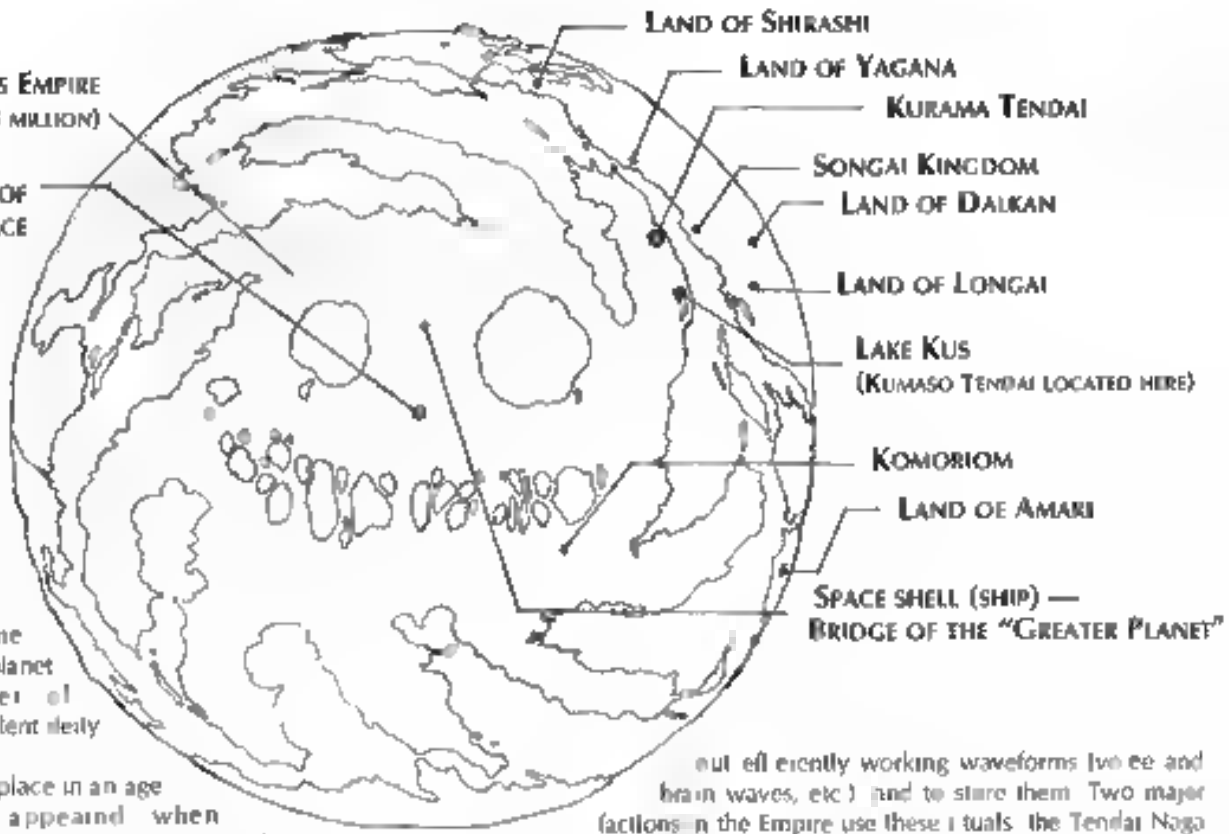
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBBB
I SAW IT ALL BEFORE! THE FUTURE. THE DEMONS, AND THE NINE HEADED NAGA. THE FREEZING OVER OF LUR! EARTH. THE DEATH OF THE PLANET...
AND THE ONLY THING THAT CAN PREVENT IT IS... NO. MAYBE IT'S ALL PREDESTINED AFTER ALL
RMBBB
HERE, TAKE THIS TO OUR EMPEROR AND THE SHOGUN! QUICKLY!
NO TIP?
WHOOSHAM

WHOO
KCHAK
SKREE

SKREEEK
I'LL LEAVE THE NINE-HEADED NAGA AND THE DEMONS UP TO YOU
SUSANO ORBATOS !!
D-DID YOU SAY SUSANO ?!
THE GOD OF DARKNESS ?!
THE ONE IN THE MYTHS ?!
TO BE CONTINUED.

ORION notes

THE PLANET LURIE



Tonight somewhere on the planet Lurieh flower of evilization a malevolent deity is about to appear.

Our story takes place in an age long before man appeared when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth. The Infinitely vast Galactic Empire (centered far far away in the Orion Nebula between the Genji and Heike stars) had reached the zenith of its power. Because it had incurred an enormous amount of negative karma however it was only a matter of time before the Empire went into decline.

With the fate of the Empire in their hands, a group of experts in the Tendai Naga dragon rituals traveled vast distances through the heavens to Earth. There they hoped to activate the nine-headed Naga psych energy collector and therein contain and destroy the negative karma accumulating in the Empire.

Sectarian differences soon appeared among the group on Earth making safe and effective activation of the Naga system seem impossible. As the Empire began to degenerate the main sect — the faction controlling the Vajra Naga rituals — decided that time was running out, and that it was imperative they take immediate action.

The Yamata People's Empire was founded by a clan sent from The Greater Galactic Empire — over 1430 light years away between the triple-sun Epsilon and M42 in the Orion Nebula. In the lands outside the Yamata Empire the original dinosaur inhabitants of the planet roam freely. The entire area from Shirashi to Amari is called Ashura and regarded as a wild frontier. In the South Pole region there exists a flourishing psych-civilization of odd jointed limb beings (who have also come to Earth from outer space). Because this civilization and Yamata exist in different thermal zones they rarely clash with each other. (According to the Cthulhu myths these beings did not transcend their physical forms until much later.) The current Emperor of the Yamata People's Empire is Kenkoku the Third but since he is seventy-two years old his son Prince Masakuni is the de facto ruler.

In the Yamata People's Empire electricity gas and water are all controlled by the Naga dragon rituals. The Naga-rituals use psychic power as a trigger to reprogram the power balance (the Naga power balance that is) in the natural world, to seek out efficiently working waveforms (vortex and brain waves, etc.) and to store them. Two major factions in the Empire use these rituals: the Tendai Naga faction which collects the energy from the movements of heavenly bodies and the Vajra Naga faction which controls the Nagas of the earth (such as water and wind).

As some readers will be aware Kurama Tendai in *Orion* has the same name as the famous Kurama temple in Japan. Mt. Kurama is the original site of the Tendai sect of Buddhism in Japan where Sanatokumara Maoson is said to have appeared from the planet Venus 6.5 million years ago to save mankind. (Note: The temple split off from the Tendai religion in 1949 and currently functions as the head temple of the Kurama sect of Buddhism. The stone guardian dogs at the temple are done in an almost middle eastern style and the magic square on the face of the main temple are reminiscent of the designs in this story. They're quite interesting! Two hundred million years ago Mt. Kurama was apparently under the ocean and you can see some coral fossils in the inner sanctuary of the temple. That means that a giant spaceship of the Yamata People's Empire has to have crashed on Earth within the last 200 million years.) For people visiting the main temple you can take a cable car but climbing up the narrow winding path is more than worth it. It's not an easy course though so I wouldn't recommend it to the ladies. Definitely don't wear high heels. The temple's inner sanctuary inside I can't imagine a mountain that better fits the image of Hayao Miyazaki's animated movie *Tenku no Shiro Laputa* than this one.

In *Orion* "tendai" is a type of observatory a place where the Naga forces and star forces in the universe are collected and studied. I've drawn the tendai like a giant conical leaf but it isn't actually hollowed out, it's really the bridge of a former giant spaceship. There's an original drawing of a conical leaf in the manga *Tales of Harakiri* so those who want to know more about such things should refer to that.

The next episode appears in two months. Sorry to keep everyone waiting so long. See you then.

by masamune shirow august 8, 1990

SACRED SCRIBINGS

10956 S E MAIN STREET • MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Dear Sacred Scribings People

First thanks for sending the ***Orion*** preview It s not the first preview I ve received but the first I ve written about Second thanks again for putting out in English a comic by Japanese talent Every other one I ve seen at my local stores reads backwards If you could read it that is And all to my distress I m a very big fan of Japanese art and after *Akira* I found out these guys can write too!

So here lies in front of me ***Orion*** I m a bit puzzled right now but it has certainly caught my fancy! I like the mix of magic and technology and I think I m going to fall in love with Seska Five more issues and I shall have to ask her hand in marriage Hopefully those issues will bring us a little more info on this brilliant new cosmos

Many thanks

Jason Reno
Denver CO

Those backward reading original editions may be difficult if you don t read Japanese but I ve been impressed during my work on this book at how good a visual storyteller Shirow is even in a format Americans are unfamiliar to We hope **Orion** *will appeal to both long time manga fans and newcomers*

Dear Mr Weeks

First off thank you for sending me the advance look at ***Orion*** I really appreciate it Now onto my comments First thing though is that I want to comment on how looooong the first issue was I hope that the other issues are that long I must say that I really don t like Japanese art but in this case I was impressed There was still that silly face look (i e page 2 second to last panel page 10 last panel) that you find in it seems all Japanese-style books but overall I was really impressed Even though it was black and white and a copy I found the art to be good I can t wait to see the real product Some pages I really liked were 36 and 37 Awesome stuff

The story however is another issue Man was I very confused at some points After reading the issue three times I came to be one with the Dharmaquation It seemed to me that there was too much going on at one time as far as transcendental stuff Not really complex stuff but a lot to digest about dharmaquations and spiral pillars of light and even yangerons and yinerons Even with the explanations in the margin it was a little too much I don t think that it really detracted from the overall picture it just meant that you have to read it over again

Anyway overall the book was good and I thoroughly enjoyed it I give it a psyche reading of three (out of a possible four)

Thank You

Galen S West
Ridgecrest, CA

Shirow certainly doesn't skimp on story does he? The varied influences that have gone into **Orion** *include Tantric Buddhism Japanese and classical mythology H P Lovecraft s Cthulhu mythos the I Ching and invented kanji combinations that bear some resemblance to Sanskrit While* **Orion** *may be a little complex you can always find something new each time you read it*

Shirow doesn't skimp on pages either! Due to the length of this opening episode we found a perfect bound format the easiest join us two months from now for **Orion** *in our regular format at a new lower price*

Keep tuned for Issue two, where things really heat up! May benevolent deities smile on you until then.

John Weeks

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ORION

PART 2

STORY AND ART
masamune shirow

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and toren smith

LETTERING/RETOUCH
tom orzechowski
and molly kiely

EDITORS
chris warner
and john weeks

Scanned by: ZileH-HellZ

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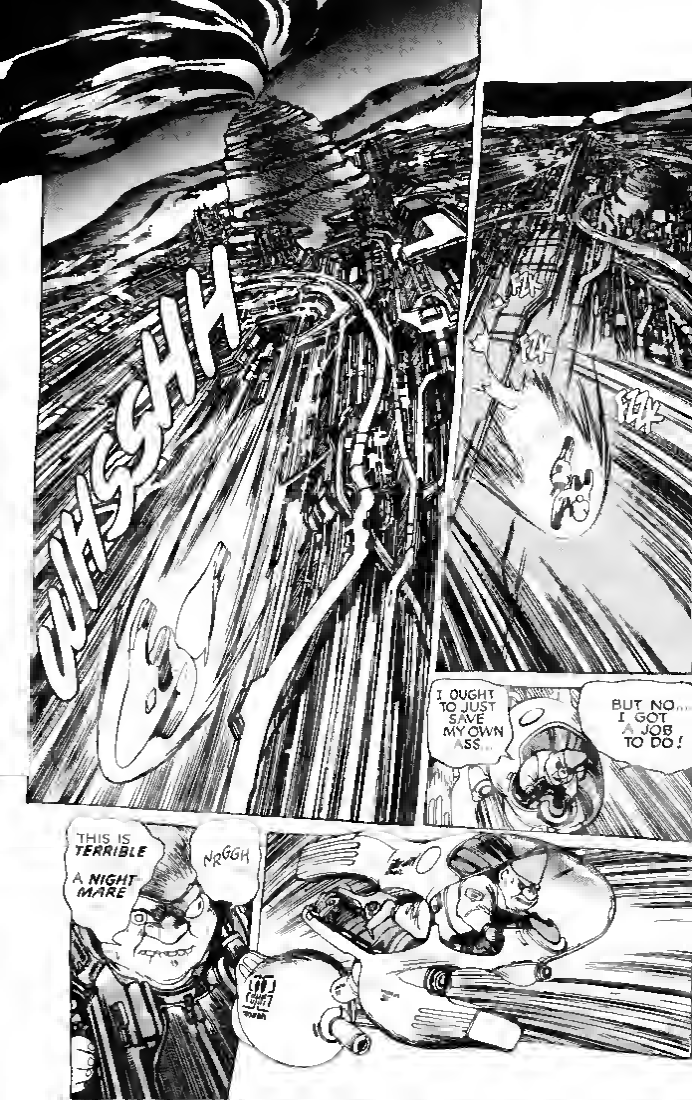
THE GOD SUSANO ORBATOS !?
STUPID FOOLS! YOU DARE TO TRANSGRESS THE CELESTIAL LAWS, EH?!
YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE DHARMA SEAL OR HOW TO ACTIVATE IT!
UNLESS YOU CEASE AND DESIST FROM YOUR FOOLISH-NESS
YOU SHALL FACE THE WRATH OF HEAVEN!!
STOP! DON'T BREAK RANKS!
"WRATH OF HEAVEN"? YEEK!
WHROOOM
DAMN YOU ALL!!
THAK

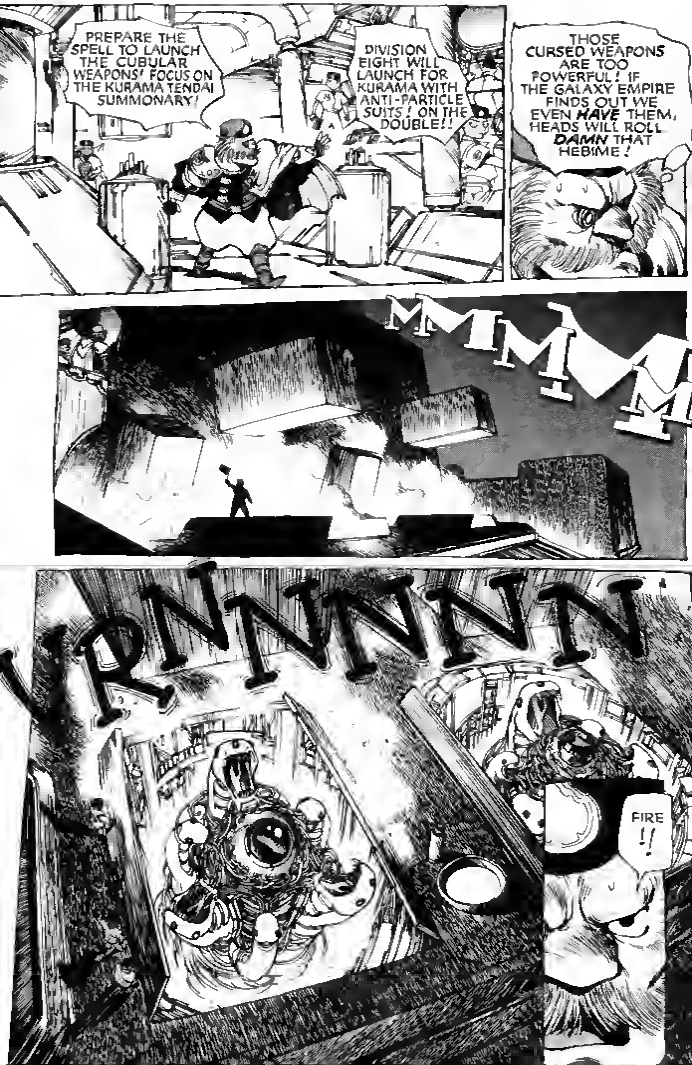
WHSSH
SWAP
PO
chingg
ch-k-
ching
uh oh
P-PLEASE SIR D-DON'T DO IT AGAIN
chinggggggg
ATTACK !!
chng
AIEEE!


WHSHH
FAK
FAK
FAK
I OUGHT TO JUST SAVE MY OWN ASS...
BUT NO... I GOT A JOB TO DO!
THIS IS TERRIBLE
A NIGHT MARE
NRGGH

WHOOSHH
TRAK
HYAH!

UH, OH
EEEK!
NYA HA HA HA
Ho Ho Ha Ha
hee hee
NYA HA HA
EEEK!
YOUR MAJESTY! A MESSENGER
Hmph I WAS HAVING FUN!
OH. VERY WELL THEN - GO AHEAD
KREE
IT'S A PETITION FROM HEBIME, MY LORD!
Hmmm

AN URGENT REPORT, MAJESTY! LET ME EXPLAIN
HEE?
BLAHBLAHBLAH
- AND SO TO SUM UP MY LORD-
I URGENTLY REQUEST A STRIKE WITH OUR SECRET CUBULAR WARHEADS ON THE KURAMA TENDAI SUMMONARY!
CUBULAR WARHEADS !!
AN ATTACK? mmm SOUNDS LIKE GREAT FUN!
BUT, MAJESTY ARE THEY SAFE TO USE IN THE ATMOSPHERE?
WHERE THE HELL'S MY GUNNERY MASTER?!
A AS YOU WISH, MY LORD!


PREPARE THE SPELL TO LAUNCH THE CUBULAR WEAPONS! FOCUS ON THE KURAMA TENDAI SUMMONARY!
DIVISION EIGHT WILL LAUNCH FOR KURAMA WITH ANTI-PARTICLE SUITS! ON THE DOUBLE!!
THOSE CURSED WEAPONS ARE TOO POWERFUL! IF THE GALAXY EMPIRE FINDS OUT WE EVEN HAVE THEM, HEADS WILL ROLL DAMN THAT HEBIME!
MMMM
VRNNNNN
FIRE !!

FUHHSHH
DIVISION EIGHT HAS LOADED INTO THE EJECTION MACHINES, SIR!
GOOD! NOW BRING ME THE CHIEF OF THE PRESCIENCE DIVISION!
HAH! HE'S PROBABLY SNORING AWAY SOMEWHERE, PRETENDING TO BE IN ONE OF HIS PRESCIENT DREAMS!
A LIKELY STORY!
RIGHT HERE SIR! I WAS AWAITING YOUR CALL!

BY THE WAY I'VE DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE MOTHER PLANET
DON'T WANT TO END MY LIFE IN THIS GOD FORSAKEN PLACE!
YAMATA IS DOOMED!
YOUR HALF-BAKED PSYCHO-SCIENCE AND TANTRIC MUMBO JUMBO WILL BE OF NO USE!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU'D ABAN DON THE EMPIRE?! NOW, OF ALL TIMES?!
I'M OUTTA HERE, PAL!
VWIPP
HEY!
IF YOUR DREAMS WRONG, PRECEPTOR, I'LL HAVE YOU TORN LIMB FROM-LIMB!
DIVISION EIGHT, ARMORED NAGA-RITUAL UNITS-- COMMENCE EJECTION!

SHRANG G
UNLIKE OTHER GODS, I AM COM-PASSION-ATE!
BUT BUDDHA I AIN'T!
THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING! REPENT NOW!
I REPENT! I REPENT!
Er DR HEIMIE DON'T YOU THINK--
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! HE'LL CONTROL YOUR MIND!
HMMM
UH oh
WHR
AM
EEK!

?!
NICE DHARMA-QUATION THERE - THINK I'LL TAKE IT!
THAP
!
GWSSH
?!!
GSSH

SKRRR

AND NOW !
SINCE YOU SUMMONED ME HERE WITHOUT THE PROPER OFFERINGS
--PREPARE FOR DIVINE RETRIBU-TION!
WH-
-SSHH
WHAMM
Huuuh ?!

KAWN
PRAISE THE GODS ! IT WORKED !!
WHOO
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? MUST BE SOME SECRET PRANIC ELEMENT !
!!!

KCHIK
KCHIK
KCHIK
KCHIK
KAK
KAK
KAK
NYA HA HA HA! SEE?! YOU MAY BE A GOD WITH A NINE HUNDRED MILLION PSYCH-LEVEL, BUT EVEN PHOTONS CAN'T ESCAPE OUR CUBULAR WEAPONS! OUR SORCERY HAS VANQUISHED YOU!

WE DIDN'T CREATE THIS NAGA RITUAL CIVILIZATION FOR NOTHING!!
A MULTI LAYERED RGYAS DHARMA SEAL AND OUR LATEST NON-CRYSTALLINE SUPER WEAPON! THAT'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF PSYCHO-SCIENCE!!
YA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
DR. HEBIME SIR! THIS SUCKER'S SPINNING AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE!
HA
Huh?!
BK
RAM!

YOW!
SSSH
AIEEEE
FWOOSH
FWIP
WRAM
WRAM
WRAM
SKRAK
SKRAK

KRAK-KOOM
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
GAWD! LOOKS LIKE KURAMA TENDAI'S IMPLODING !!
RMMBR
RMMBR
THE SORCERY'S COME UNDONE !!

RMBBRMBB RMBB
I C CAN I BELIEVE IT ! THE FIRST LAW OF HYPODYNAMICS HAS BEEN SUBVERTED !!
WHA ?!
BU-ZZZZZZ
POP!
?!?!!

O ANTI-NAGA AUGER! FLY FORTH AND CORRECT THE PLANET'S SPIN! PREVENT THE HIDDEN ELEMENTS FROM CORRODING THE CORE OF THE NAGA DRAGON!
O THAT OF EARTH
O THAT OF WATER
IN THE NAME OF THE NAGA DRAGONS I SUMMON THE VAJRA WARRIOR KING SUMMONING THE GREAT SUN MASTER
EZZKK
" THAT'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF PSYCHO-SCIENCE, huh?
Hmph
YOU MORONS!
O SUMMONER FUZEN! I ORDER YOU TO CONVEY TO POSTERITY WHAT SHALL NOW TRANSPIRE!
WHSST
BEHOLD THE POWER OF AN ANGRY GOD!
EZZKK
GHNK

WHOOM
GYA HA HA HA!
YOU
FOOLS!!
SKRAK
WHRAM
BKOOM
YAIIEEE!

WHAM WHAMWHAM
HELP!

MY GOD! THE ENTIRE WESTERN CAPITAL IS EXPLODING!
THERE I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW!
WKOOM
WRAAM
BHOOMM
O FUTURE DEITY! O SUPERBEING OF THE EAST! HEAR OUR PLEA OPEN A DIVINE CHANNEL AND MANIFEST YOURSELF! IN THE NAME OF THE NAGA-DRAGON, REFEL THIS MONSTER!
BOOM!
Hmm?!

DO I HEAR THE GOD OF THUNDER?
WHOOOOSH
heh heh
SO THIS TIME-QUAKE WAS TRIGGERED BY A FUTURE DEITY, eh?
AND COULD IT BE HANUMAN, WITH HIS SUPER-NATURAL SCEPTER?!
WELL, WELL! FANCY MEETING SUCH A MINOR DEITY!
I, HANUMAN, A MAJOR DEITY, HAVE APPEARED IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE TRUE LAWS OF HEAVEN!
ANONYMOUS
WITH
MONKEY KING
TS S
WAY TO
NO CAFE A
MONKEY GOD NAMED HANUMAN HE
S APPARENTLY ALSO CALLED
HANUMAT

AND I COMMAND YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY!!
SKREEK!
DON'T YOU "SKREEK" AT ME--
--YA HAIRY-ASSED BABOON!!
GODS IN HEAVEN, DEMONS ON EARTH-- THUS IS THE UNIVERSE RULED! YIN AND YANG TURN TO CREATE CELESTIAL LAW!
BY WHAT RIGHT DO YOU ADDRESS ME WITH SUCH CONDESCENSION?! I, WHO AM ATTENDED BY INNUMERABLE GODS BOTH ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN!
Yikes!
HOW DARE YOU EVEN MENTION BOTH YOURSELF AND HEAVEN IN THE SAME BREATH?!

I, SONGOKU, GREATEST IN ALL THE SPHERES, WILL NOT TOLERATE YOUR IMPUDENCE!
AND I, SUSANO, WARRIOR-GOD OF THE BLACK DRAGON-EYE--
--WILL TEACH YOU YOUR PROPER PLACE!!
SHAKK
CLANGG

SKY'S BLACK AS SOOT, SIR, AND THERE'S NARY A GLIMPSE OF MOON NOR STARS!
FZZAKKZZ
FZZZK
NO RESPONSE FROM OUR MEN, SIR!
KZZTTZ
IM-POS-SIBLE!
YOU MEAN DIVISION EIGHT HAS VANISHED?!!
S-SIR?!
POWER UP THE SUMMONS MACHINE! RECALL HEBIME!

SH—HSSS
I KNOW
I KNOW
SHOGUN!!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON, HEBIME?!
YOU'VE GOT TO GET AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR AND ACTIVATE THE NINE-HEADED NAGA!!
WHISSTT
WHA?!
HEBIME COME BACK!!

KANG
WHAP
KOW
BKOOM

SWANG
SWANG
MBEAK BOMB
WHRASSH
KANG
SOMETHING'S SLOWING ME DOWN. MAYBE IT'S THAT WEIRD GIRL ATTACHED TO THE DHARMAGUATION I SWALLOWED EARLIER
DAMMIT, I CAN'T KEEP SPARRING WITH THIS CRAZY MONKEY FOR EVER

DAWN
SCREE!
AHH
KRAK!

Gasp
KOFF KOFF
SKSSSH
DAMN YOU, SUSANO! I'LL GET BACK THE DHARMA-SEAL, FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE IT, AND SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO!!
AND WHEN I DO, THEY'LL MAKE ME A TOP COUNSELOR AT THE IMPERIAL COURT!!
FAME AND FORTUNE
Heehee♡ CALM DOWN, SESKA, DEAR
FIRST I HAVE TO FIND THAT SCROLL THAT DADDY TALKED ABOUT
Not bad

WHMPH
GAH!
WHAT TH-?!
SKRSSHHH
LIKE OW!
GULP
GULP
GULP

SKRAMM
BKOOM
SIRIUS! I SUMMON YOU!
SKREEEK!
O HERETICAL APE! MAY THE EIGHT TRIGRAMS OF THE FOUR PHENOMENA MANIFEST AND SWALLOW YOU ALIVE!

SHHSSH
NHRAAMMM

SHZZK
THE MONKEY GOD IS GONE ?!
THE CHRONO TORSION FORCED HIM BACK TO THE TIME AND SPACE WHERE HE BELONGS. I'LL HAVE TO PAY A PERSONAL PRICE FOR THIS, OF COURSE
ANY DISTURBANCE IN THE FIVE ELEMENTS UPSETS THE GREAT NAGAS
ANYWAY, THAT DAMNED MAGIC MONKEY GOT WHAT HE DESERVED! HE'LL BE STUCK WHERE HE IS FOR AN ETERNITY OR TWO!
O GREAT LORD SUSANO!! HAVE MERCY! PLEASE, GRANT ME A FAVOR!
WELL? WHAT IS IT?

WE'RE TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ALL THE EVIL IN THE GALAXY EMPIRE HERE AT YAMATA AND HAVE THE NAGAS TRANSFORM AND DESTROY IT
BUT BUT SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG THE NAGA REACTOR HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY LUNAR/YIN ENERGY AND TAKEN OVER BY AN EVIL FORCE I KNOW IT'S GOING TO TRY TO DESTROY THE VERY EMPIRE ITSELF
O KIND DEITY! YOU MUST HELP US, AND SAVE THE EMPIRE FROM THE NINE HEADED NAGA!!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU JUST WANT TO USE A GOO LIKE ME TO EVEN THE SCORE WITH SOMEONE YOU GOT A LOT OF NERVE, PAL!
Hmph
THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T LIKE ABOUT THIS NINE HEADED NAGA I CAN FEEL ITS ENERGY IN MY HAIR
RMMBB
RMMBB
I THINK I'LL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PROTECT THIS YAMATA EMPIRE" LATER
BUT I DO SEEM TO HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THIS PLACE

SKRASSH
HACK HACK
I I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE PALACE
MY ART
MY HOUSE
YOU SEE DAT? DERE WAS DA GIANT MACHINES, WAVIN' A BIG STICK!!
WARRANTS OUT FOR THE ENTIRE FUZE CLAN
KURAMA TENDAI DESTROYED
CUBULAR WEAPONS USED
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?! AND I WONDER IF SESKA'S OKAY
BLUB BLUB
TO BE CONTINUED

MANGA, MANGA, MANGA!!!

CARAVAN KIDD
THE VENUS WARS
MASAMUNE SHIROW'S ORION
INTRON DEPOT
VERSION
OUTLANDERS
AND...MORE!!!

IT'S MANGA MAYHEM FROM DARK HORSE COMICS!!!

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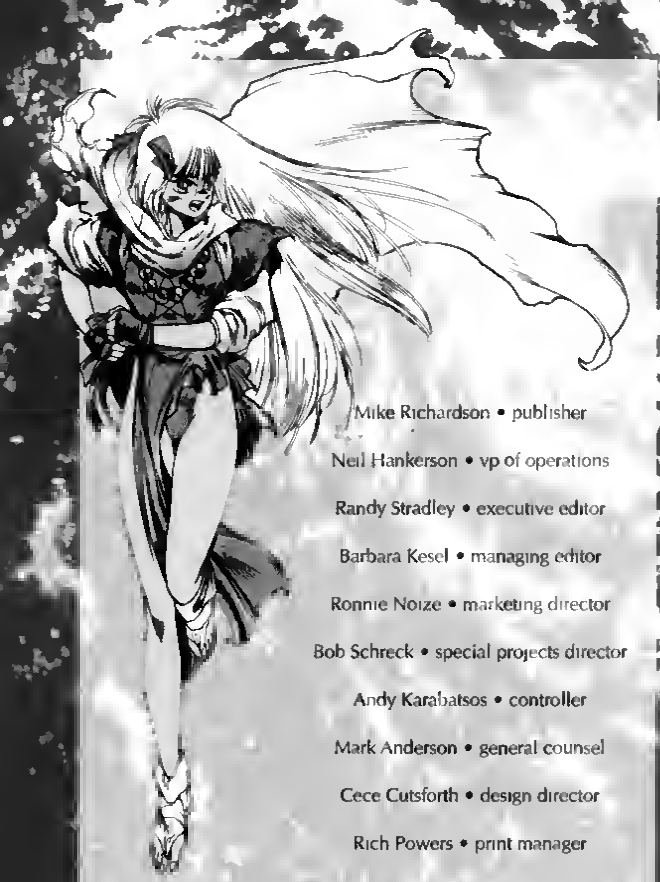

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masamune shirow's

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Hmm
MAYBE I HAVEN'T DESTROYED ENOUGH STUFF.
WAIT, NO, SID-I THINK THIS IS QUITE ENOUGH OH heh
YOU KNOW, IF YOU'D SUMMONED ME IN TAKAMAGAHARA MODE INSTEAD OF IZUMO MODE, I WOULD HAVE REDUCED THE WHOLE PLANET TO YINERONS AND YANGERONS!
Heh... LUCKY ME...
I, er, WOULDN'T SUGGEST REDUCING THINGS TOO MUCH AFTER ALL, THEN THERE WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING LEFT TO WRECK...
heh heh heh
UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN I CAN'T DESTROY YINERONS AND YANGERONS
THE OTHER GODS OUT THERE ARE HOLDING THEM ALL TOGETHER, SO WE'LL NEVER GET TO TRUE NOTHINGNESS...
EH?
WHILE THINGS ARE IN A STATE OF NOTHINGNESS, THERE'S NO TIME, EITHER, SO THE RESULT IS A CYCLE OF CREATION AND EXTINCTION
NOTHINGNESS
CREATION
CHANGE
EXTINCTION
NOTHINGNESS
THE "YANGERONS" REFERRED TO HERE ARE NOT WHAT WE A "PROTONS" THEY ARE THE ULTIMATE YANG ELEMENTS (SAY WHAT?)

IN THE FIRST STAGE OF CREATION, THERE WAS YIN AND YANG
VACUUM POLARIZATION?
THE VERY BEGIN-NING?
RIGHT. BEFORE THAT, EVEN NOTHING-NESS DID NOT EXIST--
--THERE WAS A VIRTUAL VACUUM WITHOUT TIME OR MEANING. BUT THERE WAS YIN AND YANG
WHEN EXISTENCE CAME INTO BEING, "NOTHING-NESS" AND "TIME" BEGAN. NOTHING-NESS WAS NEGA-TIVE.
TIME AND EXISTENCE POLARIZED INTO YIN AND YANG, AND THE FOUR PHENOMENA EMERGED
y
YANG
x
x
YIN
-y
SEEKING FURTHER STABILITY, THIS DEVELOPED INTO THE EIGHT TRIGRAMS; WHICH DOUBLED AGAIN INTO 16, 32, 64, AND SO ON...TO MAKE UP OUR CURRENT MATERIAL WORLD
THIS FORM FACTOR IS THE MOST BASIC WAY TO REPRESENT THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE

IF WE TAKE THIS REPRESENTATION AND TRANSFORM IT WITH A LITTLE OCTOTRIGRA-MOLOGY, IT APPEARS LIKE THIS
LOOK FAMILIAR ?
WELL ?
IN OTHER WORDS, FUZEN, THE ART OF THE NINE-HEADED NAGA IS A SUBSET OF OCTOTRI-GRAM-OLOGY
IT DIVIDES ALL EXISTENCE OTHER THAN KARMA ITSELF INTO EIGHT PRIMAL ELEMENTS
HEY!! THIS IS IDENTICAL TO THE NINE-HEADED NAGA DHARMAQUATION !!
THE OCTOTRIGRA-MOLOGY MUST HAVE SCRAMBLED THIS GUY'S CHAKRAS ...

BUT BECAUSE THE NINTH PRIMAL ELEMENT OF THE NINE-HEADED NAGA IS POINTED AT HEAVEN IN ORDER TO COLLECT NEGATIVE KARMA, THE EQUATION (UNLIKE THE OCTOTRIGRAM) SPINS CLOCK-WISE.
HEY! AREN'T YOU ONE OF THOSE TENDAI PRIESTS?
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, LOOK HERE--
PRIESTS ARE SUPPOSED TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE PEOPLE!
WELL, JUST LOOK AT THE MESS YOU'VE MADE! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT, eh?!
--SO WHEN THE SPIN IS REVERSED, THE AZIMUTHS ARE INVERTED, AND EVERYTHING ASSUMES A NEGA-TIVE ENERGY-- HEY! AREN'T YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
WHEN THE SPIN VECTOR IS INVERTED, EXISTENCE REVERSES AND TIME IS NOT REVERSIBLE. PAST AND FUTURE ARE ASYMMETRICAL.
Ah, GRACIOUS DEITY! PLEASE FOR-GIVE ME, FOR I CANNOT IGNORE THE SUFFERING MASSES!
LISTEN-- WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?!
ACK!
BOMF

FREE AT LAST!
SO, AS I WAS SAYING- IT'S ACTIVATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEGATIVE FORCE, OR NOTHING-NESS. SO THERE ARE BASICALLY THREE PROBLEMS ...
WAAAH! WAAAH! MOMMY!!
THE FIRST IS THE PERSON WHO DESIGNED THE NINE-HEADED NAGA FORMULA
HE'S PROBABLY A FAIRLY ADVANCED FORCE, HIM-SELF
MOMMY! MOMMY! WAAH!
SHADDUP!!!
URK!
BOOOMF
FREE AT LAST! YAY!
THE SECOND IS THAT THE TENTH ELEMENT, WHICH SHOULD BE IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NINTH, IS "EMPTY." THIS ACTUALLY CREATES A PRIMAL ELEMENT THAT EMITS NEGATIVE KARMA.
...AND THIS GROWS IN PROPORTION TO THE AMOUNT OF NEGATIVE KARMA THAT THE SYSTEM COLLECTS. REDUCING IT WOULD TURN IT INTO A HARD-TO-HANDLE MALEVOLENT ENTITY...
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

ANYWAY, BECAUSE OF THAT, THE NINE-HEADED NAGA TECHNIQUE · WHICH SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF TEN ELEMENTS · · MERELY BECOMES A LENS THAT MAGNIFIES NEGATIVE KARMA
S
NINTH ELEMENT
SUBSET OF OCTOTHIGRAM
TENTH ELEMENT/ MALEVOLENT ENTITY
N
IF THIS HAD BEEN CREATED BY A NAGA-FORCE, IT WOULD DEFINITELY BE HARMFUL TO PEOPLE, BUT IT LACKS ENOUGH OF A SENSE OF "SELF" FOR A SINGLE NAGA
THEN THERE'S THE THIRD PROBLEM --THE SACRIFICE..
IF SOMEONE'S EYES, EARS AND ARMS WERE TRANSPLANTED TO THE NINE-HEADED NAGA, IT WOULD BE TRANSFORMED FROM A MERELY STRUCTURAL ELEMENT TO A TRULY ACTIVE, MALEVOLENT DRAGON
Uh HOW DO WE PREVENT THAT?
ONCE THE EQUATION IS ACTIVATED, THE NAGA-FORM IS NO LONGER NEEDED ...
ONE COULD EITHER SEPARATE THE SACRIFICE FROM THE DRAGON, OR PERHAPS REMOVE THE NINTH PRIMAL ELEMENT FROM THE EQUATION BEFORE THE MALEVOLENT DEITY IS CREATED...
Hm?
FZZZKK

TH-TH-THE NINTH ELEMENT OF THE EQUATION IS--
GO NE!!
HYAAA
KH-WAM
BKROOOMMM

GOOD THING WE ALWAYS GO TO CHURCH. WE'RE HARDLY EVER AFFECTED BY THESE DISASTERS ...
YEAH, OTHERS ARE HAVING A HELL OF A TIME ...
ehehehehe
AHAHAHAHA
KRAMBB
YEEK !?
BRAMBBRAMBBRAMBBRAMB
M-MY GOD! WHAT HAPPENED!
CURSES!!
SO THAT MEANS THE REAL ONE IS ACTIVE SOMEWHERE?!
RIGHT IT MUST BE THE ONE I SPAT OUT EARLIER!
THE TENTH ELEMENT HAS BEEN ACTIVATED SOMEWHERE!
EARLIER, WHILE I WAS DISTRACTED BY THAT STINKING APE, I MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY PUT THE INACTIVATOR SPELL ON THE FAKE EQUATION!

GODDAMN IT! THAT REALLY HACKS ME OFF!!
BOOT
KYAK!
THE EQUATION YOU GOT RID OF SURELY THAT WASN'T THE ONE MY DAUGHTER WAS..
SHE'S NOT YOUR DAUGHTER ANYMORE.. SHE'S THE MALEVOLENT DEITY OF THE TENTH ELEMENT NOW!
OHHH NO...
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.. I'LL HAVE TO FIND THE SACRIFICE AND PUT AN INACTIVATOR HARMONIC ON IT...
YOU MEAN LIKE PUTTING OUT POISONED BAIT?
BOT
YOW!
STOP YAWPING AT ME ALL THE TIME, FUZEN!
NO, NO, I DIDN'T MEAN TO..
JUST SHADDUP!

HEY YOU BEEN FOOLIN' WITH MY PSYCHOMO-METER ?
DUNNO WHAT YER TALKIN ABOUT ..
LOOK-- TH NEEDLE'S ALLAWAY INTA TH RED .
NO KIDDIN' ...
OH BOY, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA GET TER EAT REAL FRESH FILTH NOW, INSTEAD'A THAT METALLIC-TASTING STUFF...
NYAW HAW HEE HEE
AYE, SUCH A CLEVER, TALENTED SON Y'ARE!
GYGSH
YUM YUM
HMN?
KYAA!!
SUUPP

WHR-AM!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
P-PLEASE FORGIVE US!
SHE BROKE 'ER CHAINS.. AND THEY WERE PURE SANCTO-STEEL!
?!
WHAT ON EARTH WERE YER TRYIN' TER DO, HROT?! WHY YER GOOD-FER-NOTHIN' LI'L--
SMAK SMAK YAP
EEYE!
I BROKE CHAINS OF SANCTO-STEEL?
BUT HOW COULD I?

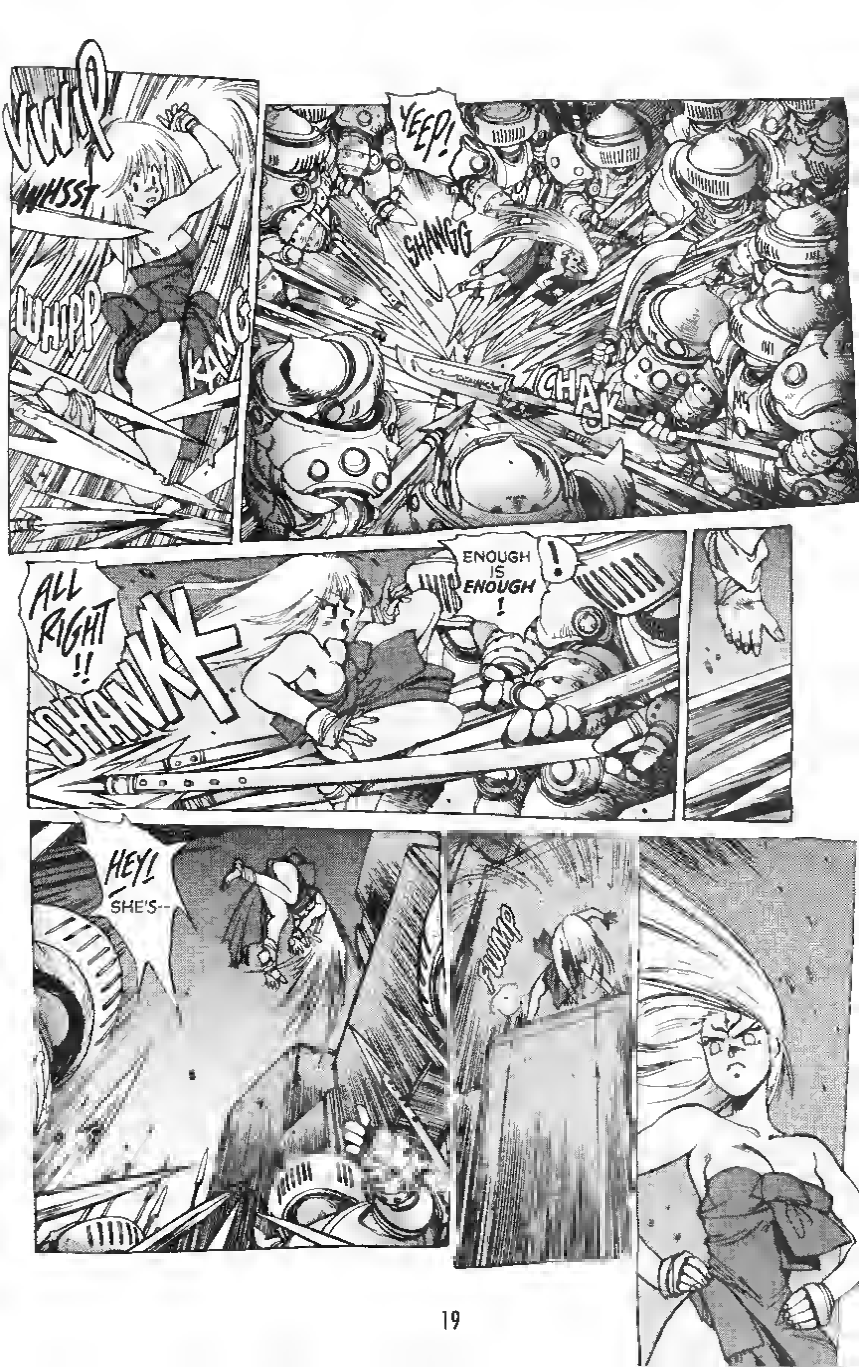
HEY, YOU-- WHERE AM I?
um, AT TH' BOTTOM A' LAKE KUS
LAKE KUS ?
Hmm THAT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE KUMASO TENDAI PLAIN...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I SEEM TO BE ATTRACTING SOME SORT OF COSMIC FORCE ..
NOW I RE-MEM-BER !
I WAS GOING TO MEET THE EMPEROR, CLEAR UP THIS MESS, AND THEN GET BACK AT SUSANO !!
EASY! BET I COULD TELEPORT THROUGH TO SOKOKU PALACE IN ONE LEAP!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE MORE STRENGTH THAN EVER. MAYBE I OUGHTA TRY LEVITATING-- IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
Hmm

SKRASSH
SOME-THING JUST SLAMMED INTO THE PERIMETER GATE!
MAYBE IT WAS THAT SUSANO GUY!!
SOME-BODY TELL DR HEBIME!
KOFF HACK
MY WORST LANDING EVER! USUALLY I CAN COME IN A LITTLE SOFTER THAN THIS

KRAK
SOKOKU PALACE
ADMISSION
ADULTS $15.00
CHILDREN $10.00
SENIORS $5.00
SOKOKU PALACE!
WOW! I REALLY DID MAKE IT HERE IN ONE LEAP!
HEY, CHECK IT OUT-- A BLACK SNAKE!
EEEK!! A SNAKE?! WHERE?!
YIKE!

KSHANGG
Oh MY ...
HEE
YAHH
WHR-
-AMM
GYAK!
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME A SNAKE!
I AM SESKA FUZE, ACTING HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN!
AND I DEMAND AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR, NOW!

SESKA OF THE FUZE CLAN?! THERE'S A WARRANT OUT FOR HER! WITH A REWARD OF 200,000 GOLD DROGS!
WHAT?!
CHARGE!!
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
200,000 DROGS?!!
NOW JUST HOLD ON A SECOND. HERE I CAME TO TELL THE EMPEROR THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE!
EEEK!
WH-!!
WHSSHHT


WHIP
WHSST
WHIPP
KANG
YEEP!
SHANGG
CHAK
ALL RIGHT !!
SHANK
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH !
HEY!
SHE'S--
WHIP

YA HA HA HA
FOOLS! ALL YOUR DHARMA SEALS AND AMPS CAN'T TOUCH ME!
I THINK
SO BACK OFF!!
HO HO HO
LISTEN! I AM GONZALEZ, CAPTAIN OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD!
AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO A FAIR FIGHT! I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR THE REWARD, EITHER!
ARROGANT SWINE! I'LL TURN YOU INTO AN EATER-OF-FILTH!
HOLY COW!
BkOOMPHHH
HE TURNED INTO AN OCTO-POT!
GIARK!
I'M... AN OCTO-POT?!
ACK! GAG! BARF!

I WANT A PASS THAT GETS ME THROUGH ALL THE SPELL BARRIERS IN THE PALACE! NOW!
IF NOT-- I'LL TEAR THE PLACE APART!
DR. HEBIME!!
IS THAT FUZEN'S IDIOT DAUGHTER?!
YAY! GET HER!!
GO GO HE-BI-ME!
WAIT A SEC! THAT MEANS HE'LL GET THE REWARD!
WHSF
WHAT TH-?!
WHAT TH-?!

FORWARD, MEN! HEBIME'S CORNERED SOME BANDIT BY THE WEST GATE! WE'VE GOT TO BACK HIM UP!
RMBBRMBB!
EZZ4
BROOM
Hm. Oh!
A BRILLIANT IDEA, LORD SUSANO! A DECOY AT THE MAIN GATE SO WE CAN SNEAK IN THROUGH THE BACK!
RMB
RMB
RMBB
NOT MY IDEA, IGNORAMUS!
Hmm.. THAT'S ODD I JUST FELT A STRANGE FLOW OF ENERGY BETWEEN THE NINTH AND TENTH ELEMENTS
RMBB
RM
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET ANYONE SEE THAT HAIRY FACE OF YOURS! AND BE PREPARED-- THE INNER PALACE IS A DIFFERENT WORLD OF SORCERY, RULED BY PURE YIN.
IS THE SACRIFICE YOU NEED REALLY HERE?
YOU CAN'T MAKE A SACRIFICE FOR SORCERY THIS POWERFUL OVERNIGHT. TAKES TIME, AND CAREFUL MANAGEMENT
IT'S GOTTA BE HERE!

HNNGRRRRGGH!
SO THAT DAMNED HEBIME TRIED TO GIVE A SILK ROBE TO OUR WRETCHED SACRIFICE, KUSHINATA...
OF ALL THE FILTHY, INTOLERABLE IMPUDENCE!!
P-PLEASE CALM YOURSELF, MAJESTY! THINK OF YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE...!
WHO DARES TO INTERRUPT ME?! RIP HER TONGUE OUT AND SEW HER MOUTH SHUT!
H-H-HAVE MERCY, YOUR MAJESTY!
Hmph... IF YOU SLIP SOME NEEDLES IN PRINCESS KUSHINATA'S DINNER TONIGHT, I JUST MIGHT FORGIVE YOU!
S-SURELY YOU SPEAK IN J-JEST, MAJESTY?!
BRING ME SOME RED-HOT TONGS AND A SEWIN KIT!
SMAK SMAK
I'LL DO IT! W-W-WHATEVER YOU SAY, MAJESTY!
Waaaaahh
PL...PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
Sniff
WHY SUCH HASTE, YOUR MAJESTY? THE NINE-HEADED NAGA WILL SOON BE ACTIVATED!
THEN SACRIFICES WON'T BE NEEDED! AND THEN...
eee hee hee

GLORIOUS PRINCESS KUSHINATA! I BRING YOU A GIFT OF CLOTHES FROM DR HEBIME!
PLEASE ENTER
MMM
MMRMBB
I WILL JOIN YOU IN A FEW MOMENTS...

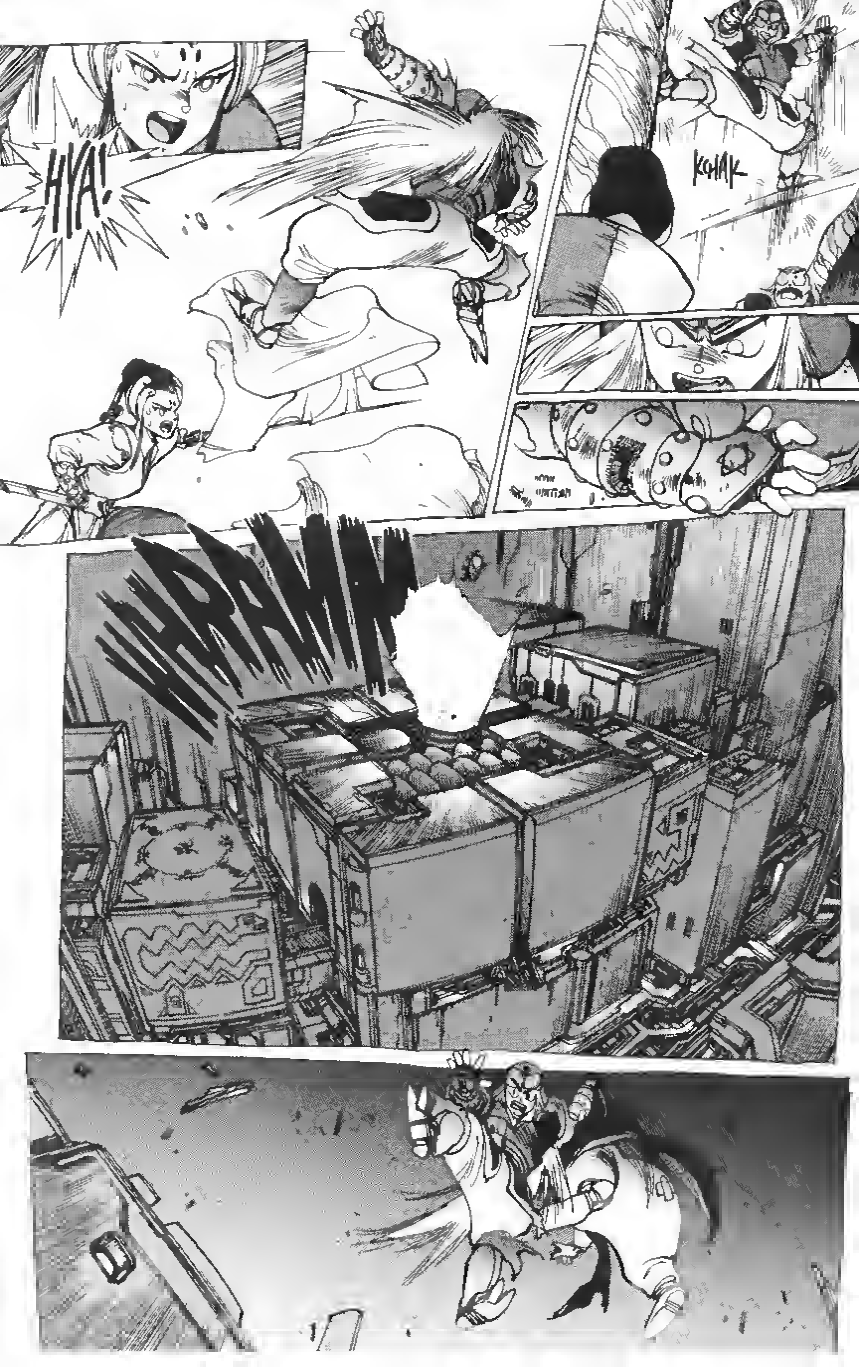
THANK YOU FOR WAITING
Ah... uhmm... H-HERE THEY ARE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH
THE SOULS OF ALL THOSE WHO GAZE AT THE PRINCESS ARE EXPOSED!
LADY SAKURA ! LADY UME !
AGAIN ...?
S-SORRY, MY LADY ...
SO I SHOULD INFORM THE COURT THAT, ONCE MORE, THERE WERE NEEDLES IN THE PRINCESS'S MEAL, YES?
I'M AFRAID SO, MY LADY... PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

Ahh THE CORRUP TION OF THE FLOATING WORLD
AS ALWAYS HIGH- NESS ...
WHAT IS IT, SAKURA ?
QUICKLY, HIGHNESS! STEP INTO THE PROTECTIVE DHARMA CIRCLE!
THUK

OW!
OW!
SHADDUP!
I'M TRYING TO CONCEN TRATE!
THEY'VE SET SOME POWER-FUL ANTI-DHARMA MASTER SPELLS IN HERE...
ANYONE WHO LOOKS DIRECTLY AT THEM WILL BE STOPPED IN THEIR TRACTS--AND THEY'LL LOSE THEIR MINDS!
VROOOOSHH
HAH!
VROOSH
VROOSH
VROOSH
TAKE THAT!
FRAK
FRAKK
FRAGMENTATION
I'LL RE-MATERIALIZE EVERYTHING, AND WE'LL BE FINE!
FRAK
NOT A BAD DEFENSE SYSTEM, THOUGH! THESE PSYCHO-SCIENCE WEAPONS ARE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT!

SHIK
Er I THINK MY POSTERIOR'S BEEN VIOLATED ...
EEE YOWW
WASN'T ME! I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUCH ACTIVITIES!
NO, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
THEN QUIT YOUR MEANINGLESS BABBLE!
GET BACK!
SHAK
GAH!!
WHAK
WHAK
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
SOMETHING PIERCED MY PROTECTIVE SPELL!
SHIK

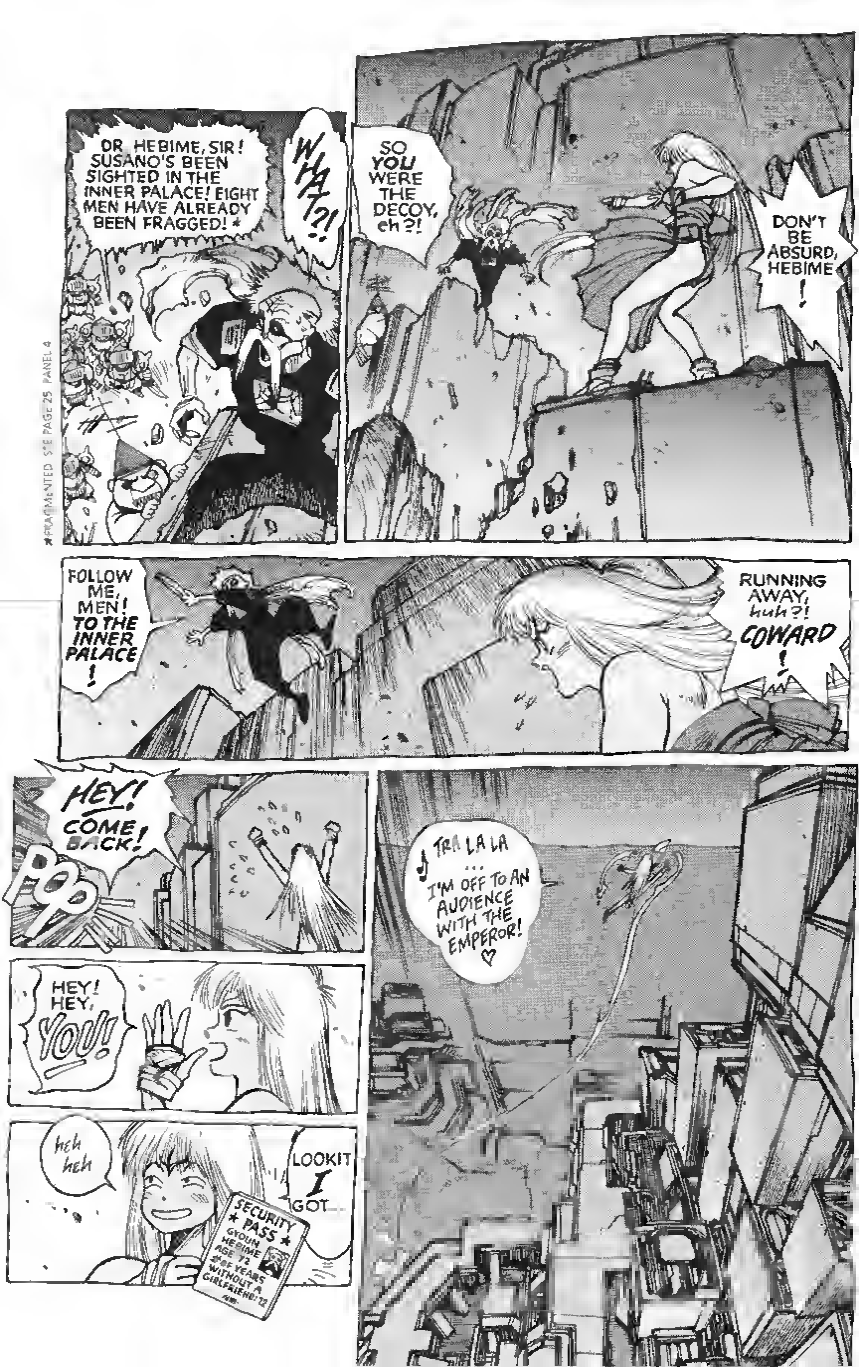
!
WHA --?!
LORD SUSANO, BE CAREFUL! SHE'S CARRYING A SANCTO-STEEL SWORD THAT CAN CUT THROUGH PROTECTIVE SPELLS!!
QUICK CHANGE OF PLANS!!
Uh-oh! BIG TROUBLE!
CURSES! I CAN'T DRAW MY SWORD!

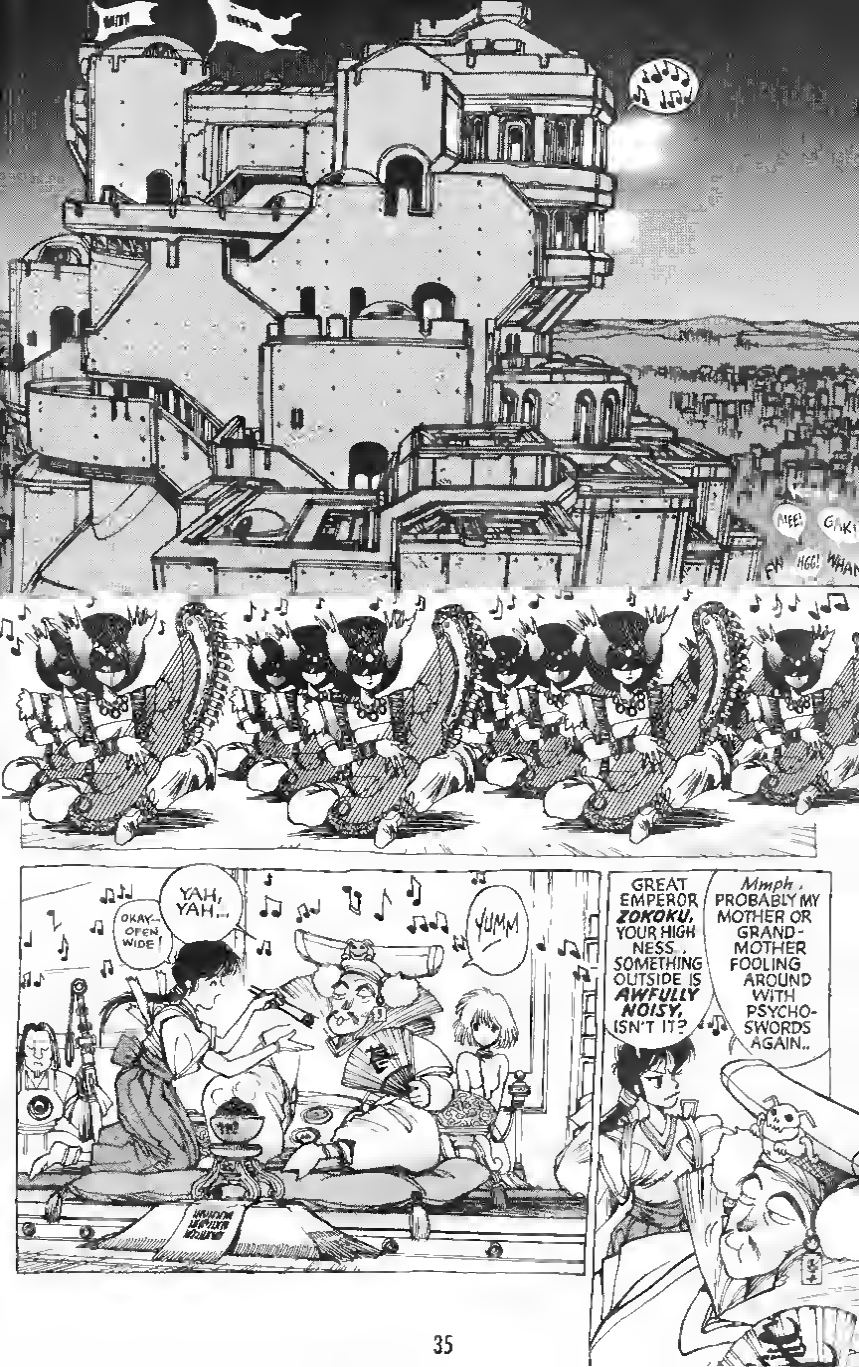

HYA!
KCHAK
WHAM!

YE GODS! THIS IS FAR MORE POWERFUL SORCERY THAN I HAD THOUGHT!
LORD SUSANO! WHAT WAS THAT FORCE?
THE SACRIFICE!
AND NO ORDINARY ONE, AT THAT!
SHE'S A SEMI-DEITY WITH CRYSTALLINE VISION, AND KANNON* POWERS MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE!
WITH THAT KIND OF POWER, THE NINE-HEADED NAGA WILL TURN INTO A SUPER-MONSTER CAPABLE OF TAKING ON NOT ONLY THE EMPIRE, BUT A WHOLE ARMY OF GODS LIKE ME!
* ONE OF THE TWO BODHISATTVAS ATTENDING THE AMIDA BUDDHA
THUK
IN THE TRUE WAY OF THE WARRIOR, IT SHOULD NOT EVEN BE NECESSARY TO UNSHEATH ONE'S SWORD...
BUT I COULD NOT EVEN FIND A CHINK IN HIS PSYCHE.
I... I CAN-NOT DEFEAT HIM ...
SAKURA!
I'M... ALL RIGHT
PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR US TO ABANDON OUR OATHS AND USE OUR SACRED PSYCHO-SWORDS
AAA!
SHSSHH

BY THE GODS! A MONSTER!
UME! USE YOUR SWORD ON HIM!
WHSSH
PRINCESS KUSHINATA --SUCH A STRANGE NAME
FWSSHH
?!
O WARRIOR GOD SUSANO.. WHY DO YOU DISRUPT OUR SACRED WEAVERY?
BECAUSE IT'S WEAVING A MONSTER NAGA. THAT'S WHY!
WHY ARE YOU SACRIFICING YOURSELF, PRINCESS?!
I WILL GIVE MYSELF TO THE NAGA REACTOR AND BECOME ONE WITH IT, SO IT CAN INCINERATE THE EVIL KARMA MANKIND HAS CREATED, AND SO PURIFY THE WORLD..
RIGHT! WITH SUCH A WONDERFUL PERSON SACRIFICING HERSELF, HOW DARE ANY "WARRIOR GOD" INTERFERE!!
THE REACTOR INTERFACES BETWEEN WORLDS! THE MORE PURITY INSIDE, THE GREATER THE CORRUPTION OUTSIDE, PRINCESS! THE DHARMAQUATION MUST BE RESET!!

THERE'S AN INTRUDER ABOVE THE INNER PALACE !!!
CHANGE ELEVATION !
VREE
EEK
SET SPELL !
KLK KLK KLK
SHRIEK
LORD SUSANO! THEY'RE FIRING GURKA* GUARDS AT US! EACH ONE'S GOT A PSYCH LEVEL OF TEN THOUSAND AND A HARMONIC LEVEL OF ONE
THAT MEANS IF ALL THE GUARDS IN THE PALACE CONVERGE, THEIR AGGREGATE LEVEL WOULD BE, uh, LESSEE ..
NOTE AT 3:14 TO THE GURKHA WHO INVENTED KUKRI KNIVES
SHREEE KREEEAGHH
THAT'S EASY-- IN A SECOND IT'LL BE ZERO!
YUCK. THEY'RE EVEN UGLIER THAN ME.
VRISS
SSS
VSS
VRISS
VRISS VRISS
VSS


DR. HEBIME, SIR! SUSANO'S BEEN SIGHTED IN THE INNER PALACE! EIGHT MEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN FRAGGED!
WHAT?!
SO YOU WERE THE DECOY, eh?!
DON'T BE ABSURD, HEBIME!
FOLLOW ME, MEN! TO THE INNER PALACE!
RUNNING AWAY, huh?! COWARD!
HEY! COME BACK!
TRA LA LA ... I'M OFF TO AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR!
HEY! HEY, YOU!
heh heh
LOOKIT I GOT...
SECURITY PASS
GHOUN HEBIME AGE 1/2 ONE YEARS WITHOUT A GIRLFRIEND
FRAGMENTED SITE PAGE 25 PANEL 4


MEE!
GAK!
EH
HGG!
WHAT
YAH, YAH...
OKAY— OPEN WIDE!
YUMM
GREAT EMPEROR ZOKOKU, YOUR HIGHNESS, SOMETHING OUTSIDE IS AWFULLY NOISY, ISN'T IT?
Mmph, PROBABLY MY MOTHER OR GRANDMOTHER FOOLING AROUND WITH PSYCHO-SWORDS AGAIN..

PSST!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
HMPH! WHY DOES EVERYONE ALWAYS SAY THE SAME THING?
I BEG YOU, KIND MAJESTY, RESCIND THE ORDER TO EXTERMINATE THE FUZE CLAN AND TENDA! NAGA RITUALS!
(THE EMPEROR'S TALKING TO HIS SOUP BOWL!)
(LAST TIME IT WAS HIS PLATE!!)
OOOO! THERE YOU ARE!
HOW VERY CLEVER!
FORGIVE ME FOR THE RUDE INTERRUPTION, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
DID I ISSUE THAT ORDER? COME TO THINK OF IT, HAVEN'T WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
I'M SESKA, ACTING HEAD OF THE FUZE CLAN, YOUR MAJESTY!
AH! NOW I REMEMBER! WE MET AT THE COURT SWIMFEST LAST YEAR!
PLEASE, MAJESTY-- THIS IS SERIOUS!
THE COMMON PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING, MAJESTY, BECAUSE OF A CERTAIN BERSERK PSYCHO-FORCE WITH YOUR LEAVE, SIRE, IF YOU GIVE ME THE SIGN, I CAN EASILY RESTRAIN IT...
WHY, OF COURSE, M'DEAR WHAT SORT OF SIGN..?
WHY NOT JUST TOUCH THE SOUP, HIGHNESS?

SO FAR
SO GOOD...
I DID IT!
I DID IT!
NYA HA HA HA! EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!
OKAY, GUARDS! TAKE ME TO THE ALTAR FOR THE NINE-HEADED NAGA!
ON THE DOUBLE!!
...WE'VE CONTACTED THE EIGHTH ELEMENT SECTION OF THE WEAVERY...
WHAT ABOUT THE NINTH ELEMENT?
THIS ALTAR ALSO SERVES THE NINTH ELEMENT...

Hmm... I WONDER HOW MUCH OF THIS THING HAS ALREADY BEEN PROGRAMMED?
I, ahh, IM JUST AN IGNORANT GUARD, MA'AM
HMPH!
WHOO WHOO
COME, DREAMS OF THE HEART! COME, DREAMS OF THE MIND! MATERIALIZE, O NAGAS! O LURIEH! TOUCH US WITH YOUR POWER!
OM MAN! PADME HUM NAGA-REACTOR... OMMM MATERIALIZE!
YE GODS! IS SOMEONE TAMPERING WITH THE DHARMA CIRCLE? COULD IT BE THAT IDIOT GIRL? MAYBE SUSANO REALLY WAS THE DECOY!!
FWWIPP
OK
FORGET IT, FUZE! WE'VE GOTTA RETURN TO THE WEAVERY!

OUT OF THE WAY, SCUMBAG!
WHIP
BUT SIRE, HOW CAN YOU DO ANY-THING ...?
I'LL POSE AS THE PRINCESS HAVING THE SAME HARMONICS WILL CONFUSE THINGS AND CREATE AN OPENING FOR ME!
RMB
RRMMMBB
RMB
Hmph... THESE VAJRA NAGA-RITUALS HAVE A LOT OF DIFFICULT FEEDBACK INCANTA-TIONS. SHOULD WORK, THOUGH ...
UH OH.
WHOOOOOSH

VOOMP
WHRASHHH
THE EIGHT WIZARDS FROM HELL, AT YOUR SERVICE!
YOU IDIOT!
WHY DID YOU SUMMON EIGHT VAJRA ARHATS ?!
Er.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU, HEBIME!
BEHOLD THE SIGN OF THE EMPEROR! I'M AN ADVISOR TO THE IMPERIAL COURT NOW! CALL ME "IDIOT" ONE MORE TIME AND I'LL RIP YOUR TONGUE OUT!
OOH!
OH, NO!
I WAS TRYING TO USE THE DHARMAQUATION TO SUMMON FORCES THAT COULD CONTAIN ANYONE WHO ATTACKED...
AND SO I WOUND UP WITH EIGHT VAJRA ARHATS!
I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF, HEBIME. SO TILL I COME BACK, I WANT YOU TO USE THE VAJRA ARHATS TO STOP SUSANO!
WE CAN ACTIVATE THE NINE-HEADED NAGA LATER! UNDER-STAND?!
I'VE GOTTA DO THIS TO GET CLOSE TO MAJOR RONNEL. I'VE GOTTA SUCCEED!
DADDY MAY BE IN HELL RIGHT NOW, BUT I'LL MAKE HIM PROUD I, SESKA, AM GOING TO RESTORE THE GLORY OF THE CLAN AND SAVE THE YAMATA EMPIRE!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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PART 4

STORY AND ART
masamune shirow

TRANSLATION
frederik l. schodt
and toren smith

LETTERING/RETOUCH
tom orzechowski
and molly kiely

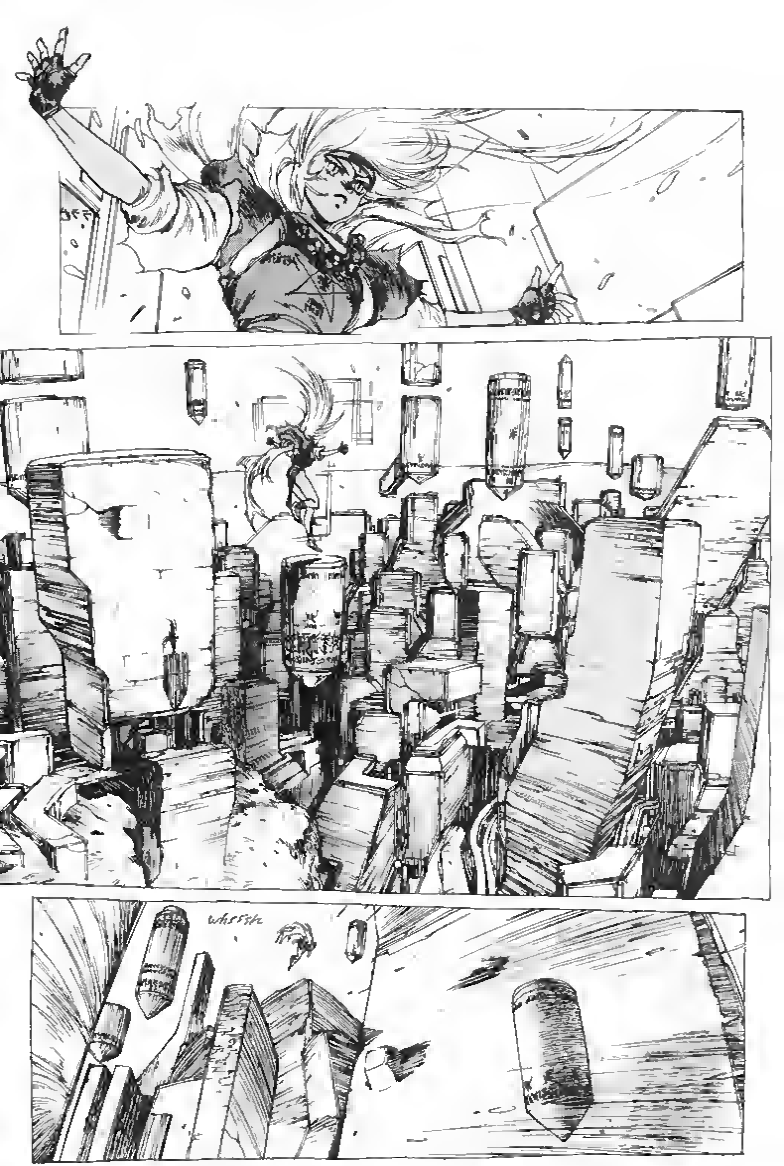
EDITOR
john weeks

IF I WORK AS AN ADVISOR TO THE IMPERIAL COURT AND PULL OFF SOME GREAT EXPLOIT, MAYBE THEY'LL MAKE ME A LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
SUBSPACE BOMBS FOR CENTERAL ARTILLERY
THEN RONNEL MIGHT TAKE ME SERIOUSLY ...
HEH HEH HEH
YE GODS! WHAT AM I THINKING?
BONK BONK
--IMAGINE A DEITY GOING BERSERK LIKE THAT!
PLEASE COMMANDER--FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, PUT YOUR PROTECTIVE GEAR ON!
?
SESKA ...?
QUICKLY, COMMANDER! THE SHOGUN'S WAITING!
?

WAAAA!
WHAK WHAK
I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF AGAIN! I'M SO EMBARRASSED!
SEEMS A LITTLE UNSTABLE NOW...
O GODDESS OF SPRING THOU WHO ART SUPPOSED TO PROTECT ME-- WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?!
WAAAH!
NOW I'LL HAVE TO PULL OFF SOME SUPER-SPECTACULAR EXPLOIT, AND REMAKE MY IMAGE FROM SCRATCH!
FIRST I'VE GOT TO PURIFY MYSELF THEN I'LL FLY TO THE LIBRARY GET THE RED SEAL SCROLLS AND BRING SUSANO UNDER CONTROL LIKE DADDY SAID
KSSH!
HYAAA!
RIGHT! LET'S GO!!

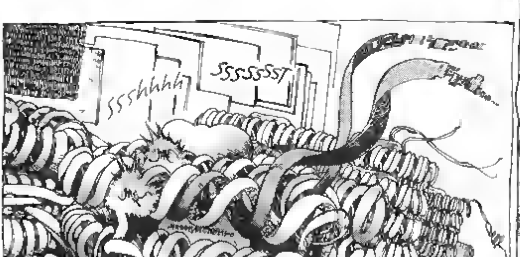
YOU STOP SUSANO, MEN!
Yo!
FZZKK
SHSSS
GULP!
STOP HIM? HOW?!
IN PSYCHO-SCIENCE TERMS IT'S SIMPLE USING A HEXALAYER POLARITY FIELD WE ENTRAP HALF OF SUSANO-- HIS ANTI-PARALLEL BIPOLAR PSYCHIC ELEMENTS
HE'S MADE OF COSMIC FACTORS...SO IF SOME HARMONICS FROM THE EARTH-COSMO CUSP ARE PROGRAMMED INTO THE FUSION EVEN LOW PSYCH-LEVEL VAJRA NAGA RITUALS SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE!

NOW I UNDERSTAND! IN THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS, EVEN VAJRA ARHATS ARE TOTALLY CONTROLLED BY THE PSYCH-ELEMENT BIPOLAR MOMENT!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING HERCULEAN, SO IT CAN'T BE COMPLETELY NEUTRALIZED... BUT WHEN THE RIGHT HARMONICS ARE ADDED, EVEN VAJRA ARHATS CAN BE TRANSFORMED!
MAXIMUM TENDAI EQUALS MINIMUM VAJRA, AND VICE VERSA!
*POLARITY IN TH S CASE IS NOT NORTH AND SOUTH BUT YIN AND YANG
Kchak
Kchak
Kchak
Kchak
VREE
Kchak Kchak
VREE
Kchak Kchak


whoosh

AMAZING THE WAY THE SERAENO ARCHIVES HAVE EXPANDED
YOU'D THINK THEY COULD KEEP THEM A LITTLE MORE COMPACT
DAMNED LAZY LIBRARIANS !
LOOK AT THIS--THE NECRO-NOMICON ROSETTA'S BEEN DAMAGED
NOW WHERE ARE THOSE RED SEAL SCROLLS DADDY TALKED ABOUT ...?
WHO DARES TRESPASS IN MY ARCHIVES ?!
THUD
Ah HAH!
Uh-oh! HE'S GOT THE SCROLLS!

WELL, WELL! THUS MAY I SPEAK, AND SO YOU MUST ANSWER--
--WHAT IS THE SECRET NAGA FORCE OF THE YANG HAND ?!
FWAP
THE YANG HAND REVOLVES OUTWARD, THE YIN HAND RE-VOLVES INWARD
AIDED BY THE GOD OF ONENESS, A REVERSE OF THE PRAYER HANDS CREATES A DOUBLE SPIRAL AND COM-PRESSES THE HARMONICS
THE TAIL OF THE WEAVE IS THE YANG HAND, AND IT DRAWS THE YIN HAND TO IT
THE TINY NAGA SESKA HAS CREATED HAS A MIN MUM NAGA-FORCE (A HARMON C LEVEL) OF "I" IT D FFERS SLIGHTLY IN THE VAJRA NAGA RITUALS
GODS!
NOW WITNESS, AS I DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF THE SPELL!
FWAP!


SSSS

HELP!
DAMN IT! THIS IS BEGINNING TO PISS ME OFF!!
DOES THIS PLACE HAVE A NEVER-ENDING SUPPLY OF WEIRD STUFF!?
WHERE'S THE WEAVERY?
BKROM
KRAKOOM
KRAKOOM BANG

RMBRM
RMBBMB
RMB
RMB
HRMM!
WHAT SORT OF INFERNAL RAT-TRAP CUSP HAVE WE LANDED IN?
CHK
Soft soft
WHAT THE?!
FWO.
HSSHH
HSSHH

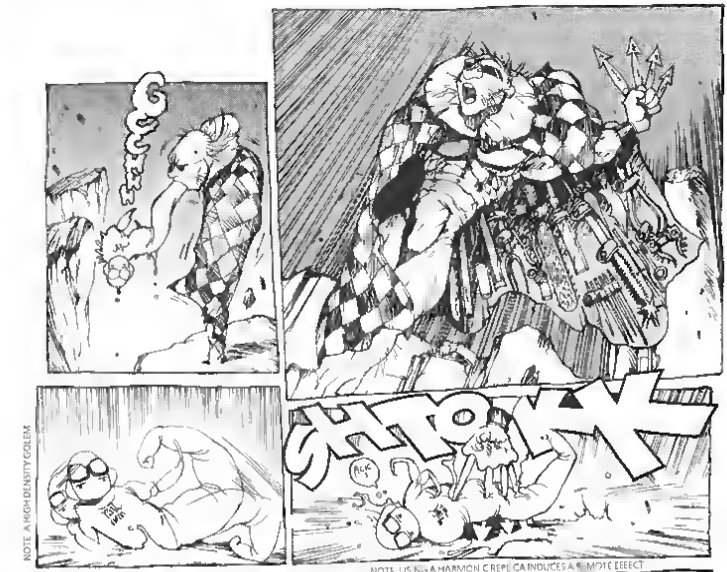
SKRAK
WHOOSSH
SHEEEE
WHOOSHAAA
O DEITY! AS DIRECTED UNDER THE PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHO-SCIENCE, WE, THE EIGHT WIZARDS FROM HELL, HAVE COME TO DESTROY YOU!

BWAHAHAHA
IGNORANT UPSTART SWINE!!
YOU'RE BEYOND REDEMPTION!!
SO LISTEN TO ME, AND LISTEN WELL!!
I CAN SMASH YOU ALL TO COSMIC DUST WITH BUT ONE WAVE OF MY SUPER-NATURAL SCEPTER!
I AM A LORD OF ALL BEINGS OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM-- I AM A MIGHTY POWER, A VAJRA ARHAT!!
PAMEN
I AM GREAT SUSANO, A GOD IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH!!
WARRIOR LORD OF THE BLACK DRAGON EYE AND OF THE REALM OF BEASTS!

FWHOOC
G-GODS ALOFT!!
OSH
HIS HARMONICS TEAR THE FABRIC OF SPACE ITSELF!!
HE MUST BE STOPPED!!
OH, I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND TRYING
YOU MIGHT GET HURT, BOYS
SHASH
OMM
HYAAAHH!
UHRAM
GRAH!

IS *THIS* ALL THE HARMONIC FORCE THIS MEASLY PLANET CAN MUSTER AGAINST ME?
WHRAKOOM

WAHSHH
?!
CHOK
URK
KNCH
YA HA HA
YA!EE!
SWAKK
RIGHT-- WHO'S NEXT ?!


GRRRR
SHOOK
NOTE: A HIGH DENSITY GOLEM
NOTE: US NO A HARMON CREPE CA INDUCES A REMOTE EFFECT

FZZKK
EH
YE GODS!
AH HAH-- SO A RIFT DID APPEAR IN THE EARTH-COSMO CUSP RIGHT AFTER HE WAS PETRIFIED!
THAT MEANS WE CAN CONTROL THESE GODS WITH PSYCHO-SCIENCE!
HEAR ME, O EIGHT WIZARDS! ASSUME FORMATION AS I COMMAND!
THE GOD... WITH S WORLD ARE UA LIKE THOSE N CHRIST AN TY OR SLAM AND CLOSER TO A POWERFUL NATURE SP RIT OR W HATTHE ND AVIS CA LED A MANITOU T E R POWER IN HAB TS EVERYTH NC A NATUR

FIRST WE ACCESS THE PRANIC GATE-WAY, AND WHILE HE'S RESTORING HIS HARMONICS, WE'LL USE THE HARMONICS OF HIS NAME-CODE AND CLAMP A HEXARING ON HIM!
PREPARE THE HEXAPOLE SOLAR REACTOR!
Ehch hehheh HAH!
I KNOW THIS LL WORK!
I KNOW IT WILL!
"WHER-EVER A NAGA-FORCE EXISTS, SO DOES PSYCHO-SCIENCE!
SSSHHHH
?!!
"THIS TIME WE'LL SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO ABOUT PSYCH-ELEMENT ENGINEERING, SUSANO!"

IN ANTI-VAJRA FORCE?
THAT'S THE WAY!
I'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE MAN WHO MADE A DEITY'S HARMONIC CORE DIS-INTEGRATE!
SOMEONE'S ACCESSED MY NAME-CODE HARMONIC, AND IS TRYING TO PULL ME INTO A REACTOR?
CURSES! I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD THEM MY TRUE NAME!!
FZZAKK
WHAT TH--?!

WH-
ZARK
AAK
DR. HEBIME! HAS HIS TOTAL HARMONIC CORE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE REACTOR?
OPPOSITE POLES HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED FROM THE VIRTUAL VACUUM AND FORMED INTO A HARMONIC. NEARLY HALF THE PSYCH ELEMENTS IN THE REACTOR SHOULD HAVE FORMED A SPIRAL BY NOW!
??
QUICKLY! I WANT HIS HARMONIC CORE ANALYZED! ANY CHANGE PROVES HIS PSYCH-LEVEL HAS BEEN HALVED. AND IS NOW ONLY 490 MILLION!
REFERS TO THE VIRTUAL MAGNETIC CUTTING
A MAGNETIC FIELD ROLLS ON BETWEEN
AN ELECTRON AND A POSITRON. THE
HARMONIC IS EXTRACTED POLES (LIKE GENES).

HIS PSYCH-FIELD'S CONCEN-TRATING AND SEEKING A WAY OUT
IN 24 HAR-MONIC CYCLES THE HEXAPOLE SOLAR REACTOR WILL GO CRITICAL AND DESTRUCT !
I'M GOING TO ACTIVATE THE NINE-HEADED NAGA MYSELF!
THAT'S ALL I NEED !
DON'T LET THE WIZARDS RETREAT UNTIL I RETURN !
I'LL ACTIVATE IT WITH MY *OWN* HARMONIC !
HAH! *THAT'LL* SHOW THE FUZEN CLAN A THING OR TWO !
WHOO
WAKAWA

GYA HA HA!!
SO! EVEN GREAT WARRIOR DEITIES HAVE THEIR WEAK SPOTS!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO FIGHT YOU WITH ALL MY POWERS, SO I GAVE MYSELF A HANDICAP!
HAH!
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK YOU CAN REALLY AFFECT ME WITH A FOURTH LEVEL FORCE, DO YOU ?!
ENOUGH!
FZZAKK
HAIEE!
HRRG!
SHRAK
YEEEEK!

KRAWK
HA HA HA!
BOOM
RMBB
AIEEE!
KRAKK
EH?!

1 "HOW CRUEL!"
2 "WHAT AN ANNOYING FELLOW!"

FUZEN!
YOU STILL WITH ME?
BY A HAIR...
GOOD!
?!
...
THAT DAMN HEBIME! I BET HE'S GOT A DEFENSE SYSTEM OPERATING *HERE*, TOO!
THIS PSYCHO-SCIENCE STUFF IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I THOUGHT--FEELS LIKE FORCES FROM THE ORDINARY WORLD HAVE INFILTRATED NOT ONLY THE REALM OF THE DEITIES, BUT THE ELECTRONIC AND HARMONIC PLANES AS WELL!

Uh, SOMETHING'S LOOKING AT ME ...
REALLY? I'D SAY IT'S DOING MORE THAN JUST LOOKING.
EEYAAAGH!!
THUK
SIT!
SHAKE HANDS!
Good Boy!

ONCE THE PSYCHO-ELEMENTS START TO CONVERGE, THE HARMONICS ARE WEAKENED--BUT REMAINING--AND THEN THEY BUILD UP AGAIN...IT'S THE SAME WITH ME
WHAT YOU SAW WAS AN EXAMPLE OF EMOTIONS LIKE HATRED AND JEALOUSY BEING USED TO PUT A SPELL IN A TANGIBLE FORM AND USE IT AS A TRAP
LOTS OF BAD KARMA, IN OTHER WORDS
IF ENOUGH OF THAT STUFF BUILDS UP, IT CAN CREATE A NINE-HEADED NAGA
IT'S TRUE WITH EVERYTHING, BUT WHEN ANY ELEMENTS INCREASE TO A CERTAIN LEVEL, THEY TWIST IN ON THEMSELVES, SEEKING STABILITY
AND RIGHT NOW THE EVIL KARMA OF THE WORLD IS TRYING TO TRANSFORM INTO A NINE-HEADED NAGA THE NEGATIVE FORCES GENERATED BY EACH EVIL THOUGHT ARE TRYING TO FORM A NAGA AND STABILIZE
THAT'S WHY THE IDEA OF TRYING TO INCINERATE EVIL KARMA WITH A NAGA REACTOR IS A JOKE!
EVEN *THINKING* OF DOING IT IS A TYPE OF NEGATIVE KARMIC YEARNING
IF MERE MORTALS, WHO ARE RULED BY EVIL PASSIONS AND KARMA, COULD ACTUALLY DO WHAT ONLY BUDDHA DOES, WHY, I WOULD HAVE TRANSCENDED THE STATE OF THE SIX PATHS A LONG TIME AGO MYSELF. *
Hmph
SO THE DEMON IS BACK, EH ?!!
FWA!

* IN THE UNIVERSE "GOOD" REFERS TO A NETWORK THAT IS PART OF THE CYCLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE HEAVENLY REALM OF THE SIX PATHS (THE SIX LOWER STATES OF EXISTENCE--HELL, THE REALMS OF HUNGRY SPIRITS, ANIMALS, ASURAS, MEN, AND CELESTIAL BEINGS). BUDDHA EXISTS BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE SIX PATHS

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU I'M NOT A DEMON!
WHO WHO WHO
ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK YOU SAID THAT
tingg
ANY BEING--EVEN A DEITY--WHO THREATENS THE PRINCESS
--SHALL TASTE MY BLADE!
THIS OUGHT TO BE INTERESTING!
JUST TRY AND USE THAT THING ON ME!
WHAT
KAWAGG
HYAA!

FWAP
WHY THAT LOOKS LIKE TSUMUKARI, THE SWORD GOD!!
KRAAK
AAAH!

FIGURED I WOULDN'T ENCOUNTER ANYTHING MORE THAN 50,000 PSYCHES, AND HERE I AM--WITH A PSYCHO-SCIENCE SPELL PUT ON ME BY ORDINARY MORTALS!
HYAIEE
AA!
BKOOM
AH!
THE PRINCESS!

PRINCESS KUSHINATA! DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE NAGA FORCE!
CAN'T YOU SEE THE SOUND WITHOUT YOUR CRYSTAL EYE?
STOP! DON'T ACTIVATE THE NAGA!
PRIN-CESS!!
PRIN-CESS!!

KA-
-AK
NYA HA HEH!
MANIFEST O NAGA REACTOR!
DEVOUR THE WORLD'S BAD KARMA JUST AS THE FILTH-EATERS CONSUME FILTH!

WHIPSSH!
SKRAK
WHERE'D THE WIZARDS GO?!
COWARDS!!
WHA--?
Central Altar
Central Altar

O NAGAS! MANIFEST AND PURIFY THIS WORLD!
FLIK-FLIK
AA!
KRAM

KRAK
!
PRIN-
CESS
...
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
A
NAGA
?!
WE BETTER
GET OUT OF
HERE, OR
THE NINE-
HEADED
NAGA'LL
EAT US
ALIVE!!
RMBB
RMB
RMBB
RMBB
RMB
RMB

SHOGUN, SIR! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING NEAR ONE OF THE PALACE TOWERS!
ALL AHEAD FULL! JUMP TROOPS AT THE READY! WE'RE GOING IN TO RESCUE EMPEROR ZOKOKU!
HEGIME, SIR! WE'RE PROCESSING AT 62 HARMONICS-- THE OCTOPOLE REACTOR IS PROCEEDING AT 32!
HEY, MON WHAT DAT HOLE IN DE REACTOR VESSEL?
HUH? YOU BE WORRYIN', MON!
EXCELLENT! WHEN WE REACH 80 WE'LL ACTIVATE THE WHOLE SYSTEM REACTOR AND THE FIRST THING WE'LL DO IS FRY SUSANO!
VRRAAVRRNNVRRMM
VRRM

SAKURA! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!
IT'S OVER
LET'S GO, THEN
...BACK TO PLANET DAION, AND REJOIN OUR MASTER
HEY, WE BETTER REUNITE!
NO TIME NOW!
YOU TAKE FUZEN WITH YOU! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS CUSP WORLD!
HURRY!!
Uh, sir
TWO PSYCHO-MASSES STARBOARD, AFT OF US NOT BEARING THE SIGN OF YAMATA! I'VE GOT A FIX ON 'EM!

I CAN'T READ THEIR HARMONICS, SIR!
I WANT ALL OUR VILLICANNON TRAINED ON THEM! DESTROY THEM!
FIRE!
BKOOOM
SKRSHH
HNGG!
OW OW OW!
HEY! DON'T JUST STAND THERE! WE'VE GOTTA GET TO THE VAJRA INTERFACE!
I'M GETTING IN TOUCH WITH MY PAIN, BOZO!
YOU WANT PAIN?! I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!
SOME OF OUR PSYCHO CIRCUITS ARE LEAKING, SIR!
READINGS UNCLEAR!
THE HARMONIC MASS IN FRONT OF US HAS INCREASED A WHOLE OCTAVE!
COMMANDER RONNEL! PREPARE YOUR TROOPERS FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT!

REFERS TO [illegible] ERFACE BETWEEN A PLANET'S MAGNAFORCE AND THAT OF THE HEAVENS. THIS CASE THE INTERFACE REFERRED TO IS THE AREA WHERE SOLAR WINDS AND EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD COLLIDE IN THE SUNWARD SIDE OF EARTH

RMBRMB
BRMB
EVEN WITH A ZERO PSYCH-LEVEL ITS HARMONIC FORCE IS *INCREDIBLE!* THE REACTOR IS BUILDING MASS!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THE GODS OF THIS PLANET *DOING*?
BKOOM
BOOM
WHAT THE HECK?!
SEE, STUPID? THEY'RE SELF-DESTRUCTING 'CAUSE YOU MADE 'EM LOSE FACE!
SO YOU'RE STILL AROUND, EH?

I'VE LINKED US UP TO TAKAMAGA-HARA! *
HAH! WELL DONE IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
WE'D BETTER CONNECT WITH AMATERASU* AND FRY THE NAGAS BEFORE THEY ACTIVATE AND START COLLECTING THE NEGATIVE KARMA...
* IN THIS CASE THE UNIVERSE OR THE SOLAR SYSTEM
HA HA
NOT SO FAST THERE!
FZKK
?!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
O SUSANO, GOD OF DARK-NESS!
I'VE COME TO TEACH YOU A LESSON OR TWO!
TO BE CONTINUED

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masamune shirow's

ORION

SEISHINSHA

masamune shirow's

ORION

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SUSANO!
YOU'RE UNDER MY CONTROL NOW!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
SESKA!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STOP THAT OBSCENE CACKLING!
YE GODS!
UH...!
SILENCE IMPOSTER! SUSANO SUCH SILLY TRICKS WON'T SWAY ME!
HA HA
KOM
HA HA GYAA!

BKAM
FIRE!
FIRE!
BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
SIR! THIS IS ONLY GAINING US A LITTLE TIME UNTIL THE NAGA FORMS!
DON'T WORRY! KEEP FIRING!! RELEASE JUMP TROOPS!
GCHAK
KRRRR
BAM WRAM

SKRASH
SKRAK
WHAM
WHRUD
EEK!
HUH?! IS A COUP D'ETAT?
SHOGUN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DR. HEBIME!!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? IS HIS MAJESTY ZOKOKU ALL RIGHT?!
WE'RE CLOSING THE PALACE AND ACTIVATING THE NAGA SYSTEM! EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE CENTRAL AND INNER SANCTUARIES WILL BE AFFECTED SO YOU AND YOUR SHIPS HAVE TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

SKRASH
THAT CURSED SUSANO GOT AWAY AGAIN
TAKA-MAGA-HARA ?
ALL RIGHT - WHERE IS HE ?!
OKAY NAGA SYSTEM! I'M READY! ONCE YOU ACTIVATE I'LL FRY YOU WITH AN OCTOTRIGRAM !
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD AD-JUST THE SETTINGS *AFTER* WE SEE HOW BIG IT IS ?
THE WATER ELEMENT'S WARPED!
EVERY-THING'LL BE WARPED BY THE MOON'S HARMONIC FORCE!

RMBBRMBBRMBBR
ALL JUMP TROOPS TAKE UP POSITIONS TO PROTECT HIS MAJESTY AND THEN WAIT FOR FURTHER ORDERS! DON'T LEAVE THE INNER SANCTUARY!
COME IN, DR HEBIME!
RME
HAVE WE REACHED 80 HARMONICS YET?
NO, SIR! STILL AT 78!
BUT AN OCTOPOLARIUM HAS APPEARED ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE IMPERIAL CITY!
ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM SPYSAT KH-3II, AN OCTOPOLARIUM 300 KI IN DIAMETER HAS APPEARED OVER THE PALACE...
THE DHARMA SEAL CENTER IS AN ACCUMULATIVE RISING TENDAI TYPE WITH THE BASE CUT OFF BY GROWTH HARMONICS!
THAT MEANS SOMETHING IS TRYING TO DISSOLVE THE NAGA'S EIGHTH ELEMENT AND SEAL IT!
HA HA HA HA!!
BROOF
EX-ACTLY WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN!

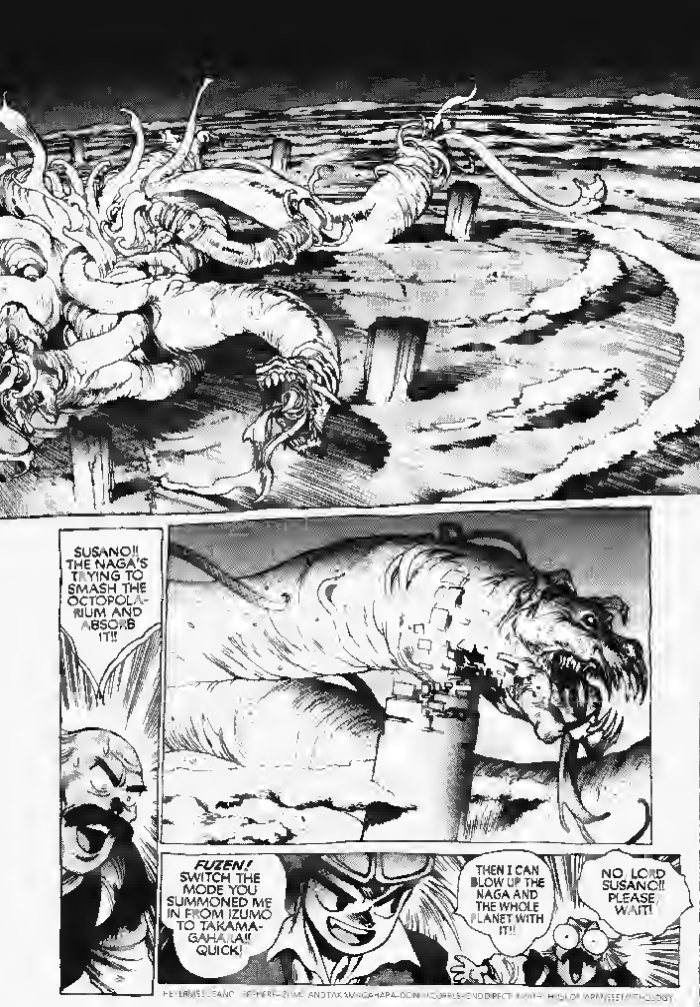
HE'S TRYING TO LINK HIS GROWTH HARMONIC WITH THE NAGA'S EIGHTH ELEMENT!
heh
heh
THAT'LL SWALLOW HIS OCTO-POLARIUM AND MAKE IT PART OF THE NAGA!
I SEE
NOT GOOD ENOUGH, O DEITY OF DARKNESS!
YA HA HA HA HA!
I WORRY ABOUT HER
FROM NOW ON, ALL DEITIES AND NAGAS WILL SUBMIT TO ME AND MY PSYCHO-SCIENCE!!
I'LL DESTROY ALL THE NEGATIVE KARMA IN THE WORLD, AND CREATE A PARADISE ON EARTH!
#1, ALL SYSTEMS GO.
#2, ALL SYSTEMS GO.
WMMMMMMM

FFFT
WHOOSH
WHMPHH

WHRAM
WHROOOM
HMPH. SUCH AN OP-PRES-SIVE SOUND
AAH. MY MORNING MAKEUP !
SILENCE!!!
B-B-BUT I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING !
HERE IT COMES !!
AND IT'S A BIG ONE !

WAY TOO BIG TO FRY!
IT'S A SUPER-NAGA!
AND THIS THING IS GOING TO SUCK UP THE BAD KARMA AND GET EVEN BIGGER?!
I'M AMAZED THEY COULD GENERATE SUCH A MONSTER JUST USING VAJRA NAGA RITUALS AND REGULAR EARTH-BOUND NAGA DRAGONS!*
THIS PSYCHO-SCIENCE STUFF WORKS BETTER THAN I THOUGHT
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
WHY DID WE HAVE TO BE SUMMONED FROM THE VAJRA CUSP FOR THIS? SOMETHING THIS BIG OUGHTA BE DESTROYED DIRECTLY BY THE FORCES OF HEAVEN!
YEAH, EVEN THE MAJOR DEITIES WOULD AGREE!
HEY!

* FROM THE PERFECT, PERFECT AND PROPER THE NAGAS ACTUALLY WORK SECRETLY IN THE BACKGROUND


SUSANO!! THE NAGA'S TRYING TO SMASH THE OCTOPLA-RIUM AND ABSORB IT!!
FUZEN! SWITCH THE MODE YOU SUMMONED ME IN FROM IZUMO TO TAKAMA-GAHA...AI! QUICK!
THEN I CAN BLOW UP THE NAGA AND THE WHOLE PLANET WITH IT!!
NO, LORD SUSANO!! PLEASE WAIT!

HEY, BRUCE LEE, ANC... SEPHER-ZIMME, AND TAKAMAGAHARA-OOMI-NO-KAMI ARE INCORRUPTIBLE AND DIRECTLY WITHIN THE GOLDEN ARM. SEE ET AMYTHOLOGY

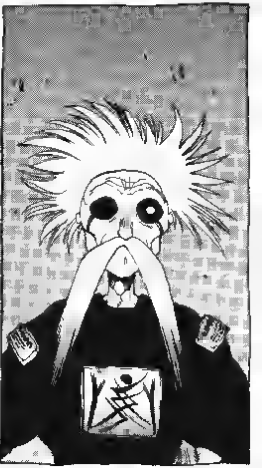
HYAHA HA HA HA
HA HA

I DID IT! NOW THE WORLD'LL BE PURIFIED! NEGATIVE KARMA AND BAD LUCK WILL BE ELIMINATED! PEACE AND HARMONY ARE AT HAND!

AAH I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT!
FSST
DR HEBIME! EVERYTHING FROM SOUTH SECTOR 12 TO EAST 145 HAS DISAPPEARED!

SIR! EAST 205 HAS --
SIR! THERE'S A REPORT NORTH 4 HAS DISAPPEARED
WEST 52 --
SOUTH 37 --

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU YAPPING ABOUT?
BUT
BUT SIR, THE ENTIRE EMPIRE'S DISINTEGRATING!



KRAAMMBKROMMM

SOME THING WRONG WITH THE TARGETING HARMO NIC ?
FUNC TION- ING NOR- MALLY SIR!
THE EYE HARMONIC S BEEN TRANS- FERRED TO HIS MAJESTY S ADVISOR SESKA SIR! WE CAN'T CONTROL IT FROM HERE ANYMORE

W-W-
WHAT?!

THE ENTIRE YAMATA EMPI E'S BEING SWAL- LOWED BY THE SUPER- NAGA
TRYING TO HIDE IN THERE EH? FOOLS!
SESKA! YOU'VE GOT TO BREAK THE SPELL OR THE WHOLE EMPIRE LL BE SWALLOWED UP!
WHO US ?
THE NAGA REACTOR S DESIGNED TO SUCK UP EVIL AND DISINTE GRATE IT!
THEN YOU OUGHTA BE THE FIRST THING TO GO
UH-LL SHOCK DOME REVERSAL

O HONORABLE ADVISOR! THE NINE-HEADED NAGA'S RUNNING AMUCK! WE'VE GOT TO TEMPORARILY SHUT DOWN THE REACTOR!
HA! ANOTHER CLONE TRICK EH? CAN'T SUSANO THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE I'M NOT DOING THAT!
ARRG
ACTUALLY I DON'T THINK YOU DO
MASTER FUZEN!
TRUCE! I NEED YOUR HELP IN DEACTIVATING THE REACTOR!
THUD
SMAKKA SMAKKA SMAKKA
OKAY TRUCE IT IS. THEN
UBBA BORK EEP
HAH! A SPELL THAT TAKES 52 PSYCHES TO ACTIVATE CAN'T BE STOPPED THAT EASILY!
ESPECIALLY NOT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!

YOU'RE GOING TO FUSE WITH MY SPELL AND CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE!!
WHOOSH
OH NO! GOTTA STOP HER!
WHAT THE?!
I'LL TEACH YOU FOOLS TO TOY WITH THE NAGA REACTOR!
HA-HA!!
SIC 'EM
NGRR

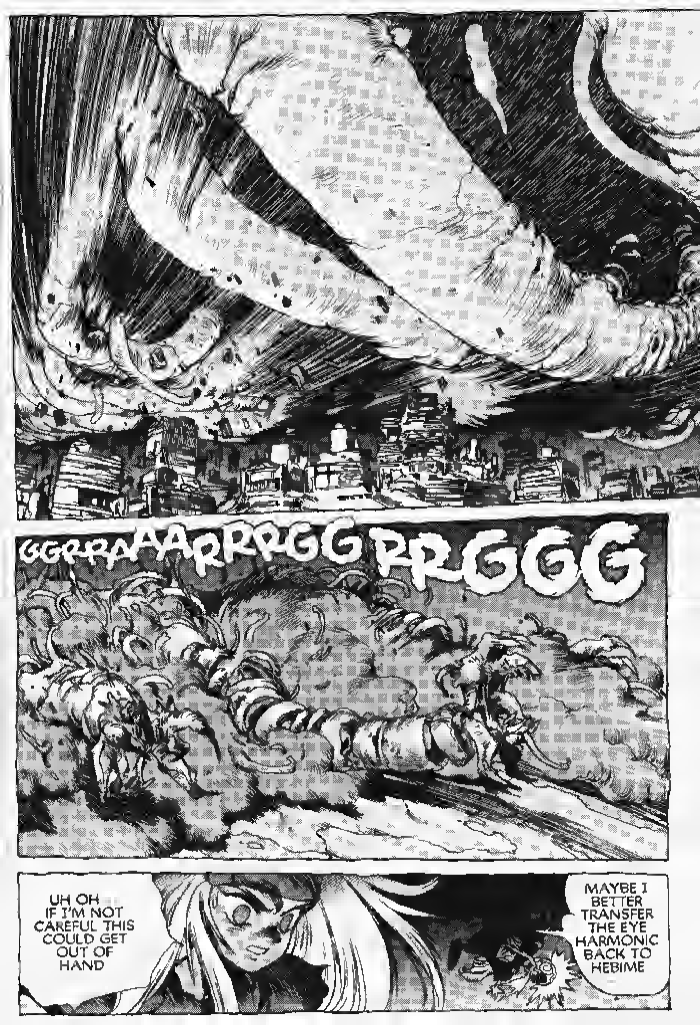
SHUURRP
YEOW!
SUSANO !!
SU-
NNGGRRRAAA

URP!
DON'T WORRY FUZEN! I'LL SEPARATE YOU LATER!
THERE'S GONNA BE NO *LATER* FOR YOU BUSTER!
OH YEAH!
BROOOM
HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT TO A TRUE GOD?! DON'T THINK YOU'RE SUCH HOT STUFF DEARIE!!

'CAUSE I'M GETTING PISSED OFF !!
WHAM

GRRAR RGGHH

NYA HAHA
SERVES YA RIGHT

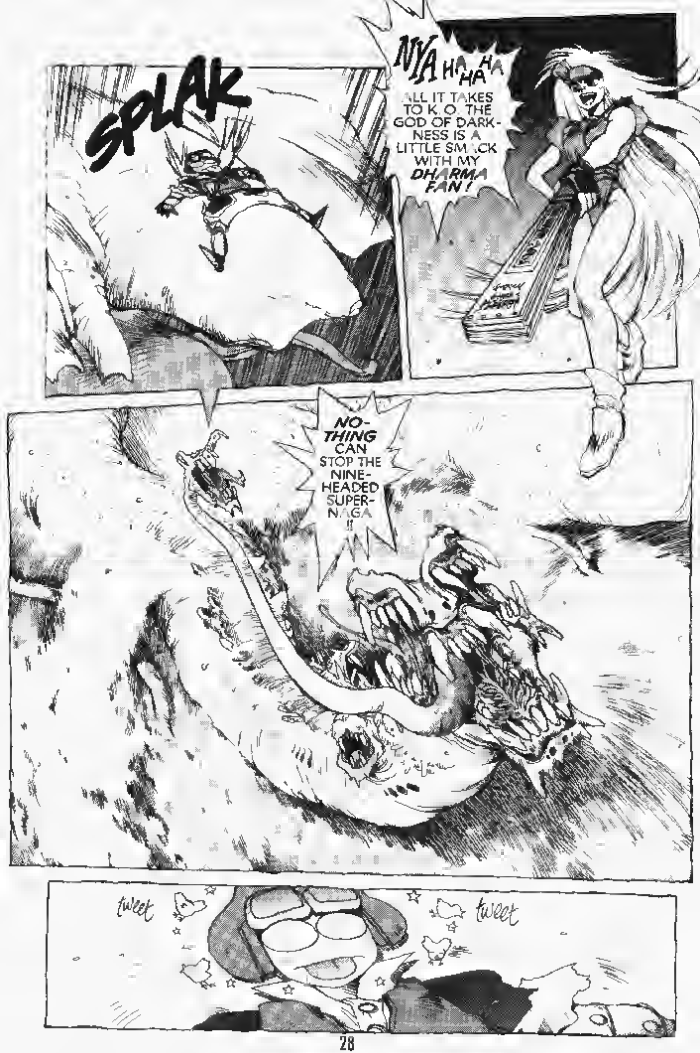

GGRRAAARRRGGRRGGG
UH OH... IF I'M NOT CAREFUL THIS COULD GET OUT OF HAND
MAYBE I BETTER TRANSFER THE EYE HARMONIC BACK TO HEBIME

!
FZZZK
ZZZKKKZZZ
HA HA HA!
SEE? YOU CAN'T DISSOLVE THE PSYCHO HARMONICS BY FORCE!
ONLY TRUE BUDDHA-FORCE GODS CAN DO THAT !!
NAW, I WAS JUST SHOWING A LITTLE RESTRAINT I GOTTA LIVE UP TO MY REPUTATION IN THE MYTHS AFTER ALL
Hmm
OH

WELL ANYWAY YOU STILL AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE NAGA SYSTEM!
AND BESIDES I'VE STILL GOT TO PAY YOU BACK FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME AT TENDAI!!
WHO?
ME?
HEH HEH
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN?
TIME TO REMEMBER!
SWAKK

MOON TALK
OUCH!
WHUD
I'M COMING AFTER YOU SUSANO!
GEE, I DIDN'T KNOW THE MOON WAS THIS CLOSE
HOW 'BOUT THAT...
OH, NO!
HYAA!!
WHAK
WHAK
WHAK

WHSSSH
WHB
WHRAM
HSSH!


SPLAK
NYA HA HA HA
ALL IT TAKES TO K.O. THE GOD OF DARKNESS IS A LITTLE SMACK WITH MY DHARMA FAN!
NO-THING CAN STOP THE NINE-HEADED SUPER-NAGA !!
tweet
tweet

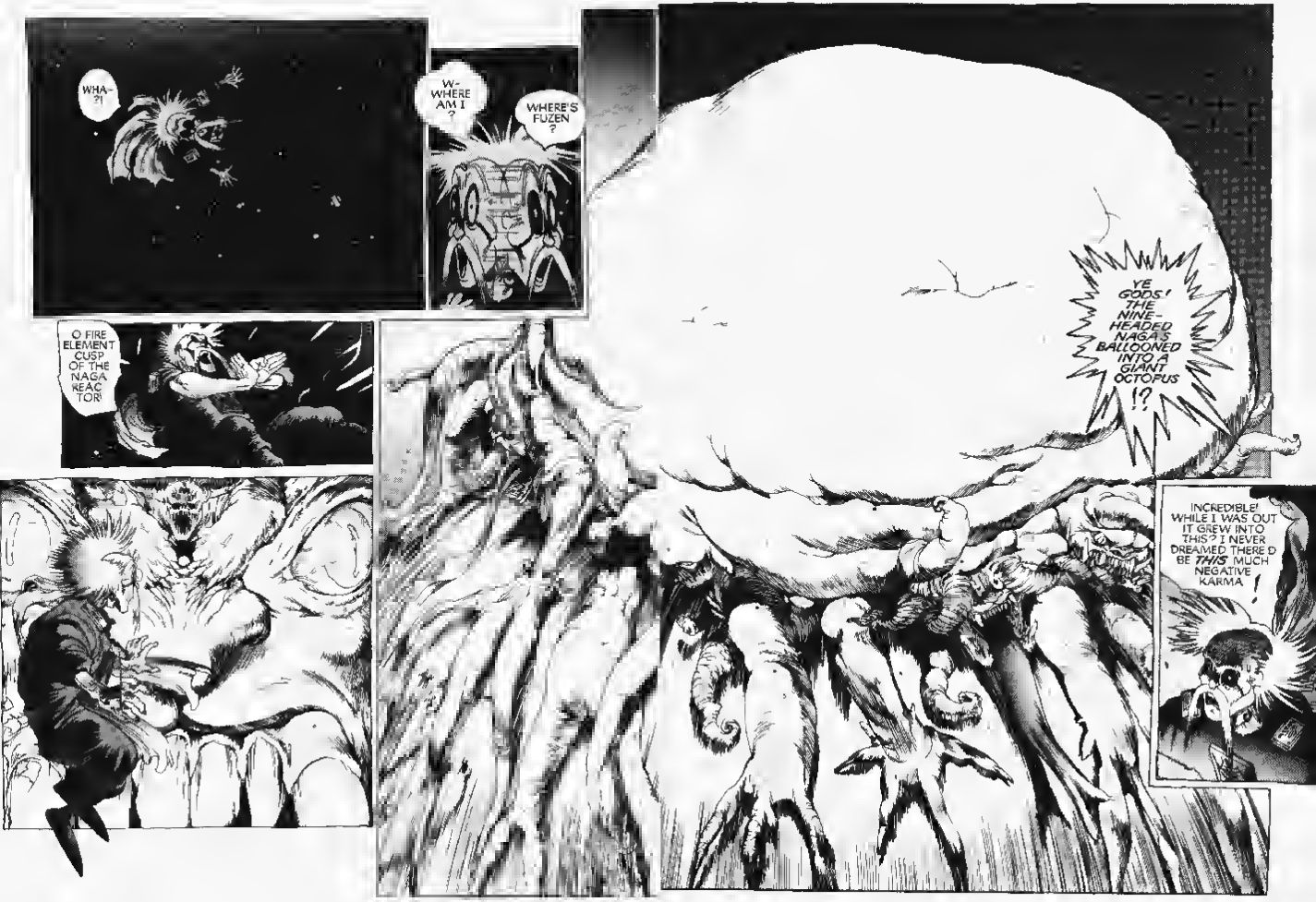
WAIT A MINUTE-- I'VE STILL GOT WORK TO DO!
HYA!
OWW...
WHILE THE NAGA REACTOR'S BUSY COLLECTING NEGATIVE KARMA FROM PLANETS THROUGHOUT THE GREATER GALAXY EMPIRE I NEED YOU OUT OF THE PICTURE!! BEGONE!
FWAP
GMRFF ?

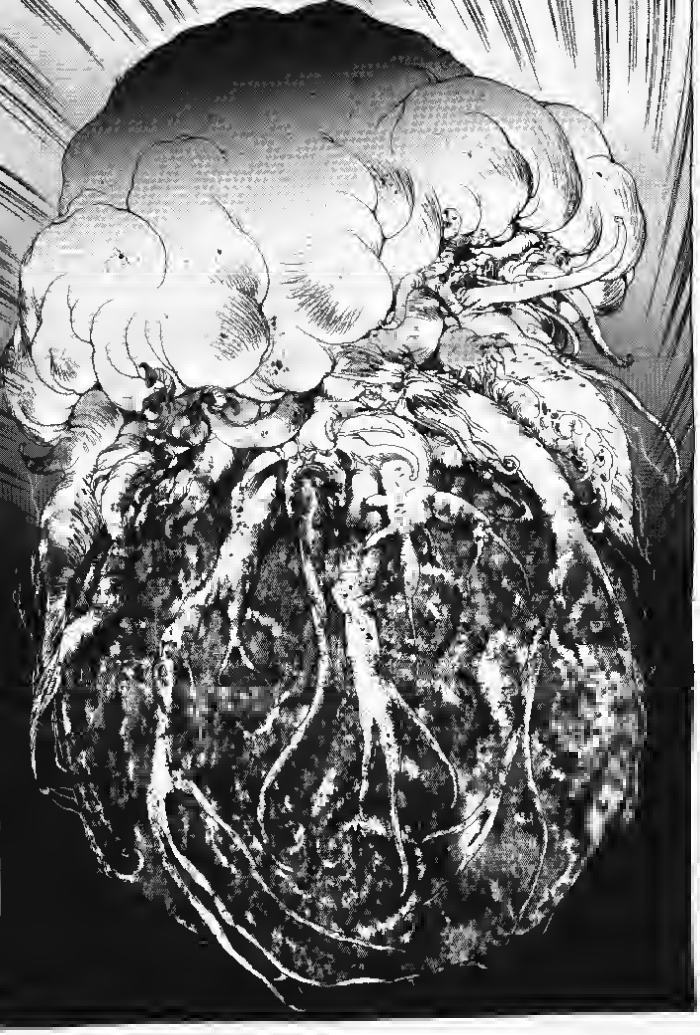
BKOOM
SNIFF
SEE YA LATER-ALLY GATOR!
HA HA HA
NICE KNOWIN' YA!
NYA HA
HA
FWMP

WHRROOOMM
GRRRRRRRRR
AT LAST THAT MEDDLER'S OUT OF THE WAY
O SUPERNAGA! SWALLOW ALL THE NEGATIVE KARMA IN THE GALAXY EMPIRE !
SH
SSSS

GRRAARR-RR
WHRROOOMM

IMAGINE! NEGATIVE KARMA COLLECTING HERE FROM 25.6 BILLION PEOPLE ON 32 PLANETS AND FOUR STAR CLUSTERS IN THE GREATER GALAXY EMPIRE
FZZK
WHAT AN INCREDI-BLE MASS!
AND IF I PUT A SPELL ON IT, IT'LL BE SEALED UP AND INCINERATED!
WITH THIS MANY PSYCHS STORED UP, I COULD CONTROL THE WHOLE EMPIRE...


WHA-?!
W-WHERE AM I?
WHERE'S FUZEN?
O FIRE ELEMENT CUSP OF THE NAGA REAC TOR!
YE GODS! THE NINE-HEADED NAGAS BALLOONED INTO A GIANT OCTOPUS !?
INCREDIBLE! WHILE I WAS OUT IT GREW INTO THIS? I NEVER DREAMED THERE'D BE *THIS* MUCH NEGATIVE KARMA!



KRROOMM!!
SHOMPP
WHAM! WHAM!
SOME SORT OF INCREDIBLE PSYCHOMASS IS BREAKING INTO THE PALACE!
OUR DHARMA BOMBS WON'T WORK ON ANYTHING THAT CAN GET PAST THE SPELL BARRIERS! RETREAT! RETREAT!
AIEEE!
WHY MUST IT COME AFTER US? DOES IT LUST AFTER MY PHYSICAL BEAUTY?
HERE YOUR MAJESTY! PUT THIS PROTECTIVE CLOAK ON!
I'VE GOT A SPECIAL PROTECTIVE DHARMA CIRCLE FROM THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS IN MY ROOM! LET'S GO THERE!

WHRAMM
SKRAK
FDO
BRTTTTT
BLAM BLAM BLAM
GET HIS MAJESTY INTO THE DHARMA CIRCLE!
AND YOU GUYS STAY OUT OF IT!
DR HEBIME! COME IN, HEBIME!!
SHOGUN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! WHAT A MESS EH?
IT'S BROKEN THROUGH TO THE NO. 7 INTERFACE! OUR DHARMA BOMBS DON'T WORK! DO SOMETHING!
THAT FUZE CLAN WITCH IS CONTROLLING THE MAIN NAGA REACTOR!
BUT THE DHARMA-QUATION HERE SHOWS YOU'RE IN CONTROL OF THE MAIN HARMONIC!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE KIDDING! THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE THEN!
NAGA REACTOR ALTAR COME IN!
WHAP
OPEN THE REACTOR HARMONIC AND SHUT IT DOWN TEMPORARILY!
VREEP VREEP VREEP

SORRY BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT HEBIME !
I JUST GOT CONTROL OF THE MAIN HARMONIC A SECOND AGO.
WHAT?!
DON'T BE SO UPSET.. IF YOU HELP ME, I MIGHT MAKE YOU MY COURT ADVISOR
YA HA HA HA
TAKE MY WORD ON IT-- YOU'RE TALKING TO THE FUTURE EMPRESS OF THE GREATER GALAXY EMPIRE!
SAY WHAT?!

YOU'RE KIDDING! YOU PLAN TO REVOLT AGAINST THE ENTIRE EMPIRE?
KIDDING SHMIDDING!
I KNOW YOU WERE PL/ANNING THE SAME THING HEHIME!
BESIDES IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE TENDAI NAGA RITUALS THERE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN A GALAXY EMPIRE!
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT YOUR GARDEN VARIETY REVOLT HERE!
I'VE GOT AN ANTI-TREASON CIRCUIT IMPLANTED IN MY BRAIN. BUT EVEN IF I DIDN'T I'D BE DAMNED IF I'D COOPERATE WITH THE FUZE CLAN!
WELL IN THAT CASE YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A NAP. A LONG NAP
BKOM
EEP!!
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB

HOLD IT!!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
TO BE CONCLUDED!

masamune shirow's

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PART 6

STORY AND ART
masamune shirow

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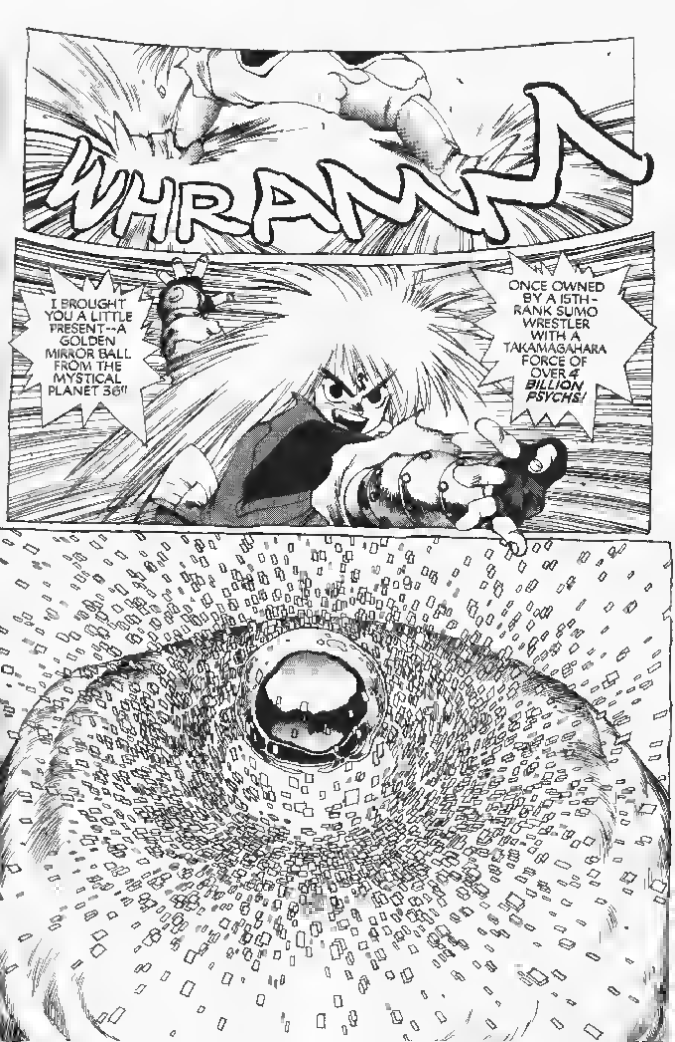
HYAIEEEEEE
HA HA!
SWOOSH
SU.. SUSANO?!
B-B-B-B-BUT HOW?!


WHRAMM
I BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE PRESENT--A GOLDEN MIRROR BALL FROM THE MYSTICAL PLANET 36!!
ONCE OWNED BY A 15TH-RANK SUMO WRESTLER WITH A TAKAMAGAHARA FORCE OF OVER 4 BILLION PSYCHS!

YAIEE!
WHAT'S GOING ON? THE WHOLE VAJRA CUSP'S WARPING?
SUSANO! ARE YOU TRYING TO SUCK THE SUPERNAGA INTO THE HEAVENS?
WELL NOT WHILE I'M AROUND!
BEHOLD YOUR REWARD A TRUE GOD-FORCE!

HELP MEEE!
HYAAA!!
UMPH!
HA!!
BKAM!
KRAK
SIZZ
SPIZZ
SOIZZ
HOW CAN HE RESIST A DHARMA SEAL AND A POWER-QUATION ?!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!
WHAT HAPPENED?! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
WHA?!
WAIT A SEC! NOW I GET IT! I LEFT SOMETHING OUT!
IDIOT!!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!!

I WAS FIRST BROUGHT HERE IN SUMMON MODE AND SENT BACK WITH A DHARMA SEAL AND POWER-QUATION ...
BUT THIS TIME I CAME ON MY OWN!! THINGS ARE DIFFERENT THIS TIME AROUND, KIDDO!
ON YOUR OWN?!
DAMN RIGHT! AND THE OCTOTRIGRAM OF ME THAT YOU FED TO THE SUPERNAGA EARLIER WAS NO ORDINARY OCTOTRIGRAM!
IT'S AN AQUA-LOCO TYPE WITH A TWISTED HYDRO-ELEMENT AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL VAJRA-NAGA FORCE ON THIS PLANET IN SIXTY FOUR HARMONICS IT'LL REACH THRESHOLD AND EVERYTHING WILL DISINTEGRATE!!
OH NOO!!
FAME AND FORTUNE
WAAAH! WAIT!
NYA HA HA!!
SMAK SMAK
NYAHH NYAHH NYAHH

SMAK
DAMN YOU, SUSANO!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
WHOO
SHSS
BOMF
I WON
I WON
WHROOOOOM
SSSHSSSHHSS
JUST YOU WAIT! ANY WARPING OF THE HYDRO-ELEMENT IN THE OCTO-TRIGRAM CAN BE CORRECTED WITH NAGA FORCE!
HE'S NOT LISTEN-ING...

WHDD
WHDD
YEEK!
OMMMMMM
THE HYDRO ELEMENT REALLY IS WARPED
ALL THE WAY UP TO THE FOURTH OCTAVE! WAAAH!
WELL THAT CONCLUDES MY VICTORY DANCE
NEXT, TO MAKE SURE THE SUPERNAGA DISPERSES PROPERLY, I'LL JUST HAVE TO JUMP RIGHT IN AND CLEAN THINGS UP...
YOU'RE GOING TO WHAT?!?
WHA-?!
HYA!
WHOOOSH

WHOOSHH
EEK!
OH NO!! THERE'S A TEAR IN THE DHARMA SEAL!
KSSSSHHHH
WHSSSHH

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? I CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING!
IF I TRANSFORM AT THE SAME RATIO AS EACH OF THE EIGHT POLES MAYBE I CAN SYNCH WITH THEM
GYERKK
TO THE RIGHT
WHAT TH—?!
Pop

!
HMPH I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD LOOK A LOT WORSE IN THIS FORCE FIELD!
SO THIS IS THE GARBAGE THAT HUMAN KARMIC LUST HAS GENERATED!

GOTTA ADMIT I'M SURPRISED— I DIDN'T THINK THAT COUPLING NAGA FORCE AND HUMAN DESIRE IN PSYCHOSCIENCE WOULD RESULT IN SO MUCH JUNK...
NOW I GET IT. THAT WEIRD BUG-LIKE THING'S SUSANO !!
TAKE THIS, FLEA BRAIN !
BSSHH
BOING
BOING
WHRAMM!
WHAT TH' HECK ?!
UH OH... I SHOULDN'T JUMP AROUND LIKE THAT--THE FIRE AND METAL ELEMENTS ARE MORE WARPED NOW THAN EVER...!

!
SKLOOFSHH
GASP
Ahhh
YAIRRG!
WAIT A SEC!
THIS IS NO TIME TO RELAX!
FUEEN!
Pop
whuh?
UH
YOU LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT MASTER
YOU REALIZE IT BECAUSE YOU'RE MORE SPIRITUALLY ADVANCED THAN YOUR DAUGHTER EH?*

!
THWOOOSSH
UH, LORD SUSANO, SIR... IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO TALK TO YOU IF I CAN'T SEE YOU...
ER...
HEH HEH

WH-
BOOM
YEEP!
I GUESS THIS MUST BE A MANIFESTATION OF SUSANOO'S APPETITE
IN FORTY HARMONICS THE NAGA REACTOR'LL BE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE GALAXY.
BUT BEFORE THAT WE'VE GOTTA SEPARATE THE NAGAS AND GODS LINKED TO KARMIC DESIRE, OR WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RESTORE THIS PLANET TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION!
BUT THERE MUST BE BILLIONS OF THEM... HOW CAN WE DO ALL THAT IN 40 HARMONICS?
PRINCESS KUSHINATA IS HOLDING THE NAGA REACTOR TOGETHER. NOW, ONCE WE SEPARATE HER GOD-FORCE FROM IT, EVERYTHING ELSE'LL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.

WANT ME TO SHOW YOU A SHORT CUT TO HER, SIR?
THAT WOULD BE EXCELLENT!
WHERE IS SHE?
IF YOU DIVE DOWN TO THE FOURTH OCTAVE OF THAT BAD KARMA CESSPOOL, I THINK YOU CAN CONTACT HER
GOOD! I'LL GO LOOK FOR OUR LOTUS PRINCESS THEN!
BRGG
GLMPHH
FRPBLL
EH HEH
MIND IF I WAIT HERE?
TOO LATE TO TURN BACK NOW, FUZEN!

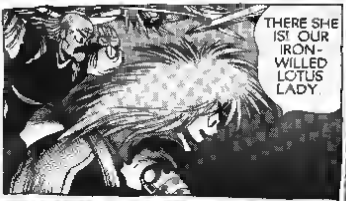
NOOO!
EVERYTHING KEEPS GETTING WORSE!!
DAMN! SUSANO! HE'S TAKING A SHORT CUT THROUGH THE SECOND OCTAVE!
I'LL SHOW HIM
LET ME GO!!
WE MADE IT THROUGH THE CESS-POOL TO THE THIRD OCTAVE!
MM?

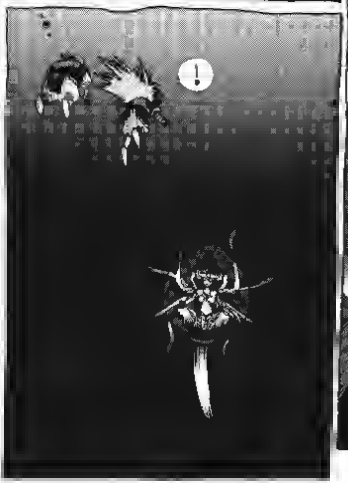
WE CAN'T STAY HERE LONG, OR MY SPIRIT'LL HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THESE DEMONS...
WE'VE GOTTA FIND A WAY DOWN TO THE FOURTH OCTAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
THIS MUST BE IT!!
WHOOSH

BZZKKK
YE GODS! HE'S ALREADY MADE IT THROUGH!
AND THE FOURTH OCTAVE'S WARPING FROM HIS FORCEFIELD !!
BUT THERE'S A QUASI-DEITY BLOCKING HIS PATH !
WELL WELL! IF IT ISN'T TSUMU-KARI, THE SWORD GOD !!
SOUNDS LIKE SUSANO YES ?!
FORGIVE ME FOR MY EARLIER RUDENESS
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES
KSHHH

HMPH! WELL THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME
I NEED YOUR HELP
HYAH!
AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR.
!
BECOME MY SWORD!
WHERE'D HE GO?
I WAS GOING TO MAKE MINCEMEAT OUT OF HIM WITH TSUMUKARI!
© COMMAND CODE ARTIFACT

UH, OH!


THERE SHE IS! OUR IRON-WILLED LOTUS LADY.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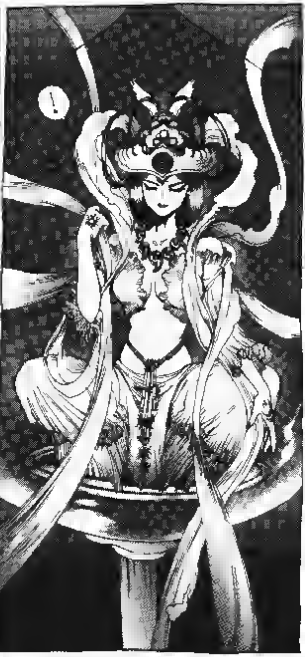
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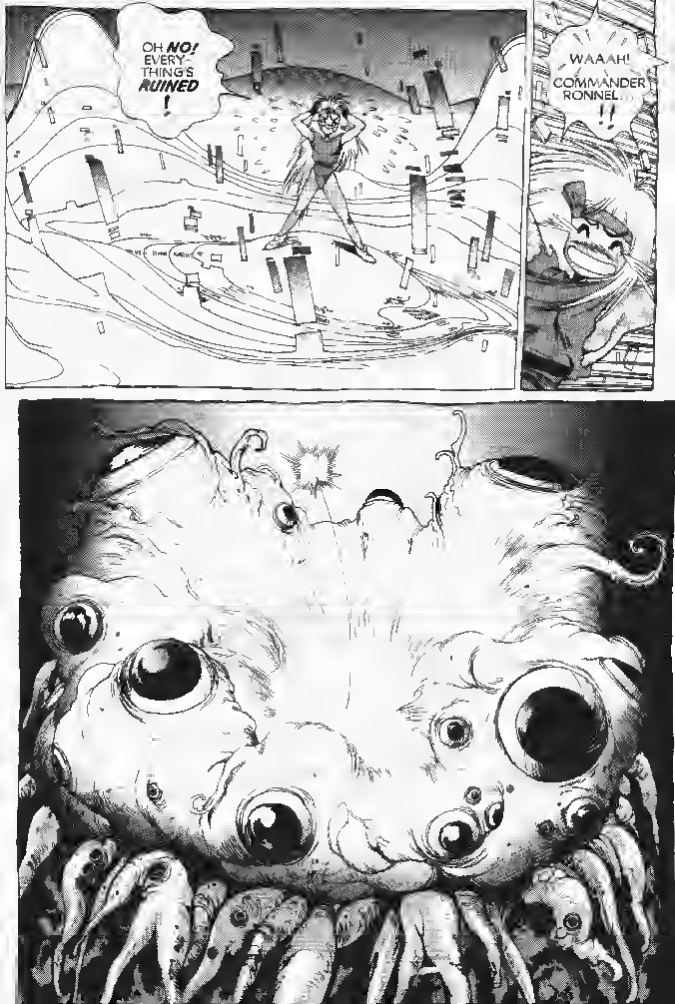
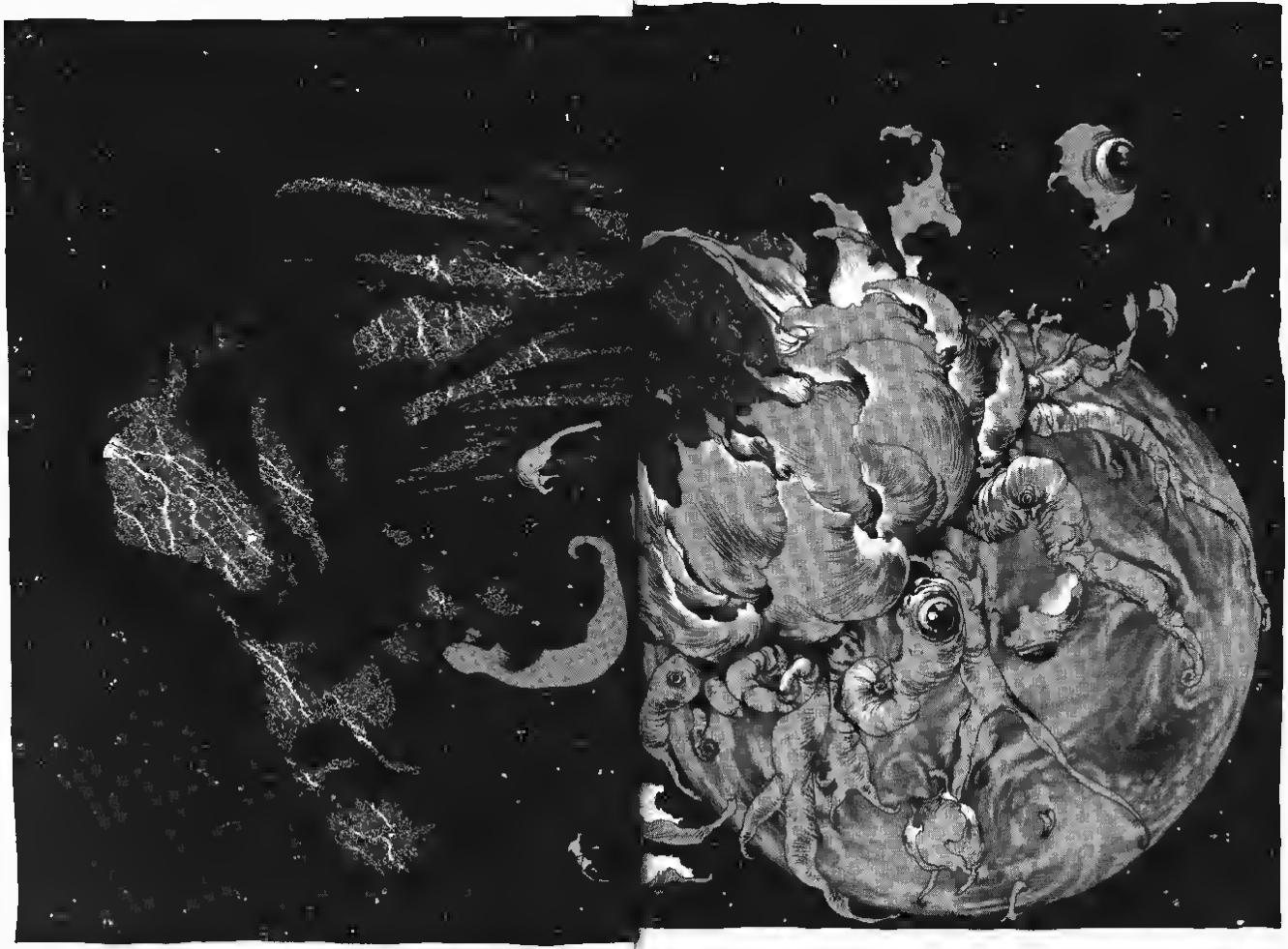
WELL, WELL, WELL!
PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES, SUSANO
I IGNORED YOUR WARNINGS PRAY TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD?
THE WORLD'S FATE WILL BE DETERMINED IN TWENTY HARMONICS
...BY ME!
I'VE FINALLY FIGURED OUT SOMETHING THAT'S ALWAYS BOTHERED ME
BOTHERED YOU?
I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY A GOD LIKE ME-- VIOLENT WILD, AND UPSTART-- EVEN EXISTS
WHEN I SAW THE SUPER-NAGA, I FELT AS THOUGH I WAS DESTINED TO DESTROY IT
BUT I WAS WRONG

I'M MERELY THE COSMIC COUNTER-PART OF A QUIET CREATIVE FORCE— A FEMALE DEITY
OF YOU, PRINCESS KUSHI-NATA !
SOMETHING I DON'T GET A CHANCE TO HEAR !
OF ME ?!
YES, AND I'VE GOT A PROPOSAL TO MAKE
ONLY 6 MORE MINUTES LEFT
I'LL STOP BEING DESTRUCTIVE
IF YOU'LL STOP WEAVING NAGAS
AH, BUT HOW THEN WILL WE ELIMINATE ALL THIS NEGATIVE KARMA ?
GOOD AND EVIL ARE BOTH GENERATED BY OUR FORM, OUR WORDS AND OUR MINDS
YOUR DESIRE TO DO GOOD TO DESTROY NEGATIVE KARMA TRAPS BOTH GOD-FORCES AND NAGAS IN THE REACTOR WHICH PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF AN EVIL DEITY
17 To Go

WHEN GOOD DEEDS ARE TOO PLENTIFUL, THE SPIRIT IS CONSTRAINED IN A MERE SHELL -- A "SORCERER'S SHELL" -- DEVOID OF ALL PHYSICAL DESIRE.
...AND WITHOUT KARMA TO PUNISH SIN, PEOPLE OVER-INDULGE IN PLEASURE, AND LOSE THEIR ABILITY TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. RATHER THAN DESTROY NEGATIVE KARMA, IT'S BETTER NOT TO CREATE IT!
IS LEFT...
SO I'M GOING TO USE TSUMUKARI HERE TO ELIMINATE YOUR OBSESSION WITH SAVING THE WORLD!
WHSSHH
ER... ONLY FIFTEEN HARMONICS TO GO SIR!
WHOK
HGNK!
WHY DO YOU NOT LET ME CONTEMPLATE IN PEACE?
'CAUSE I'M THE GOD OF DESTRUCTION, THAT'S WHY!
HYAA!!

FSSSHHSSSH

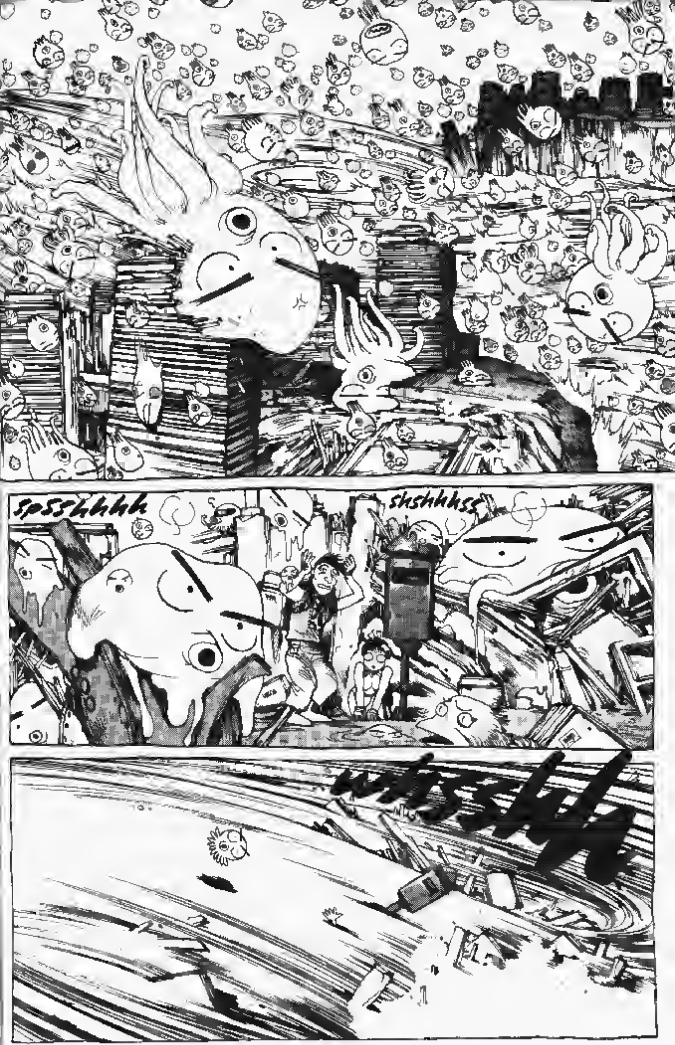

OH NO! EVERY-THING'S RUINED !
WAAAH! COMMANDER RONNEL...!!



YA HA HA!

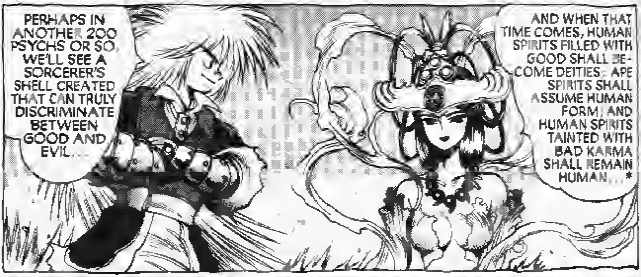
CRASH
WHKROOOM
BKOOOM

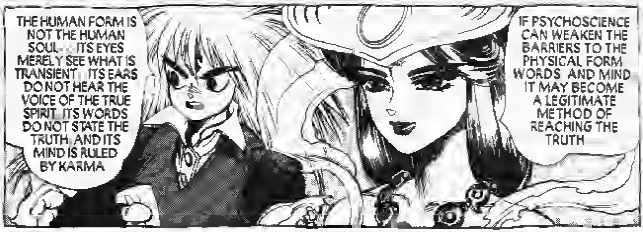
WHOOOMB
SPLOCK


spsshhhh
shshhhss

kiff - kaff UGG
!
GOOD GOD! THE YAMATA EMPIRE HAS

DON'T WORRY FUZEN. LET HER ABSORB THE NAGA FORCE FOR A WHILE AND SHE'LL SOON BE ABLE TO CAST SOME POWERFUL SPELLS AGAIN
IN A FEW PSYCHS SHE'LL RETURN TO THE SAME DAUGHTER YOU HAD BEFORE SHE STEPPED IN THE DHARMA CIRCLE
SNFF IF ONLY I HADN'T TRANSFERRED MY NAGA DHARMA-QUATION TO HER
NO, FUZEN... SHE STEPPED IN MY DHARMA CIRCLE...
O LORD SUSANO !
HEBIME ?! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE ?
O SUSANO !
IS IT TRUE PSYCHO-SCIENCE CAN'T SAVE THE WORLD ?
PSYCHO-SCIENCE IS ONLY A MEANS OF KNOWING THE TRUE GOD AND BECOMING ONE WITH IT
THROUGH GOOD DEEDS WHEN THE TIME COMES THE SELF BECOMES ONE WITH GOD AND PSYCHOSCIENCE WILL BE COMPLETED


PERHAPS IN ANOTHER 200 PSYCHS OR SO, WE'LL SEE A SORCERER'S SHELL CREATED THAT CAN TRULY DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL...
AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, HUMAN SPIRITS FILLED WITH GOOD SHALL BECOME DEITIES. APE SPIRITS SHALL ASSUME HUMAN FORM, AND HUMAN SPIRITS TAINTED WITH BAD KARMA SHALL REMAIN HUMAN...*


THE HUMAN FORM IS NOT THE HUMAN SOUL... ITS EYES MERELY SEE WHAT IS TRANSIENT. ITS EARS DO NOT HEAR THE VOICE OF THE TRUE SPIRIT. ITS WORDS DO NOT STATE THE TRUTH, AND ITS MIND IS RULED BY KARMA.
IF PSYCHOSCIENCE CAN WEAKEN THE BARRIERS TO THE PHYSICAL FORM. WORDS AND MIND IT MAY BECOME A LEGITIMATE METHOD OF REACHING THE TRUTH

AS FAR AS I KNOW, ONLY THE BUDDHA NATURE CAN TRAVEL FREELY THROUGH TIME
BUT ALL SPIRITS HAVE A WINTER, AND ALL SPIRITS ALSO HAVE A SPRING. GO FORTH, HEBIME, WITH YOUR DREAMS
AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO PERFORM A LITTLE TRANSFORMATION MYSELF

* THERE IS A BUDDHA NATURE FOR EACH LEVEL OF THE SOUL. THERE ARE INFINITE LEVELS OF THE SOUL, AND INFINITE NUMBERS OF CORRESPONDING BUDDHA NATURES. THIS SPIRITUAL HIERARCHY FURTHER SUBDIVIDES THE LEVELS EXISTING BETWEEN APES AND GODS. THE PHYSICAL BODY IS ONLY A MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT.

FAREWELL, MERE MORTALS !!
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN ...
FWAP

SHI
RAK
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA

PILLARS OF SALT
I KNOW! THE GODS WERE USING THEM AS A PHYSICAL STRUCTURE TO MATERIALIZE AROUND
THEY MUST CONTAIN A POWERFUL DIVINE ENERGY. SO IF I JUST COLLECT A LITTLE OF IT
HEBIME YOU FOOL! DON'T YOU EVER LEARN ?!
I'M GOING TO USE MY LEFT BRAIN AND PSYCHO-SCIENCE TO SAVE THE WORLD!
YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND TRY TO SAVE THE WORLD USING YOUR RIGHT BRAIN AND THE NAGA RITUALS, FUZEN'
WBLOOSH
HA HA HA!
THE WORLD'S NOT SO SIMPLE AFTER ALL EH HEBIME ?!
HOW DARE YOU LAUGH !

dingg ♪
eh?
YYAWWN! WOW I SLEPT LIKE A LOG
AAAH... I FEEL GREAT!
WHAT'S THIS? MY DEAD DADDY? DOES THAT MEAN I'M IN HELL?
SESKA LISTEN
SMAK
I'M NOT DEAD, YOU STUPID BRAT!
MAYBE YOU WERE POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT. BUT I NEVER KNEW HOW VIOLENT, RUDE, AND SHAMELESS YOU WERE!
I SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOU BETTER MANNERS!
LOOK! THE SUN'S OUT! I CAN SEE THE SKY AGAIN!
HA! HA!
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE ACCEPT MY LIFE IN APOLOGY FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SAVE THE POOR EMPRESS.
AW DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE SHE EXPLODED WHEN ALL HER INTERNAL BAD KARMA MATERIALIZED
NOT EXACTLY BIG NEWS AROUND HERE
SHOGUN TO ALL SURVIVORS! REPORT IMMEDIATELY!

GOOD LORD!
AND FURTHERMORE THAT'S NOT HE ONLY THING I'M PISSED ABOUT! I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SHOGUN'D RESIGN HE ME
SESKA!
KRANGG
THUD
SESKA! THANK GOD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
jingg♪
SHOGUN!! YOUR MAJESTY!!
WHY IT'S HIS MAJESTY ZOKOKU! AND HE'S SAFE!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU AND HOW DARE YOU LAY A HAND ON MY DAUGHTER?
WHOK
OH SESKA I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU
Y-YOU WERE?
FORGIVE ME MASTER FUZEN
BUT I WAS OVERCOME WITH JOY

I MUST BE DREAMING AGAIN
NO P PAVE SEEN ONES AS SOON AS THE NAGA REACTOR INC DENT WAS OVER I PLANNED O ASK YOUR PERMISSION TO
WHY YOU SLYER THINGVET DEVIL I'VE SEEN YOU HANG NG AROUND HERE BEFORE!
I MAY BE DREAMING BUT I CAN'T LOSE THIS OPPORTU-NITY!
COM MANDER RONNE
OH RONNE! I TOO HAVE HAD THOUGHTS ONLY OF YOU ALL THIS TIME
DEAREST SESKA
SEE? THE NAGA FORCE STABILIZES KARMA IS REDUCED AND ALL OF A SUDDEN SPRING ARRIVES
B-B-BUT SESSIE-BABY ~SNIFF~ WHAT ABOUT US?
REMEMBER ME?
A LOVE TRIGHT
SNIFF
AT LAST I SURVIVED

THE SUPER-NAGA WAS DEFEATED AND THE YAMATA EMPIRE SANK OUT OF SIGHT
AT THE BOTTOM OF WHAT WE NOW CALL THE PACIFIC OCEAN THE SUPERNAGA CONTINUES TO EXPAND WAITING FOR ITS DAY TO COME AGAIN
THE STORY OF HOW THE NAGA-SERPENT COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATES AND HOW SPRING FINALLY COMES TO ALL BEINGS TAKES PLACE 5.67 BILLION YEARS LATER

WHY 5.67 BILLION YEARS LATER YOU ASK ?
THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY
The End.

masamune shirow's

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